

Adivasis and Dalits

PROVISIONS FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES UNDER SGRY, SGSY AND NSAP

The guideline of Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) stipulates that (i) 22.5 per cent of the annual allocation (inclusive of foodgrains) allocated at the level of Districts and Intermediate Panchayats shall be earmarked for individual/group beneficiaries schemes of SCs/STs candidates living below the poverty line and (ii) minimum 50 per cent of Village Panchayats allocation (inclusive of foodgrains) shall be earmarked for the creation of need base infrastructure in SCs/STs habitations/wards. Similarly the guidelines of the Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), stipulated total 50 per cent of the benefits of the programmes should be earmarked for SCs/ STs. Under IAY, 60 per cent of houses are to be allotted to SCs/STs. Though the guidelines provide combined target for SCs/STs, monitoring is done separately for SCs and STs. During 2006-07 of the total employment generated under SGRY, 15.29 per cent was STs. Similarly under SGSY of the total Swarozgaris assisted, 14.16 per cent were STs. Under IAY 18.69 per cent houses were allotted to STs. And under new programmes of NREGA, 36.45 per cent of total mandays of employment were generated for STs.

The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) comprised three separate schemes namely, National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS), National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS), was being administered by the Ministry of Rural Development till the programmes was transferred to States Plan from the year 2002-2003. The assistance under NSAP was available to the poorest of the poor among the families living below the poverty line.

Source-LS, USQ No. 105 dated 10.08.2007, asked by Mahavir Bhagora (Bhartiya Janta Party), answered by Suryakanta Patil, Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development.

DEVELOPMENT OF VILLAGES

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs sought assistance of Rs. 150 crore under Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) in the Annual Plan proposal 2007-08 from the Planning Commission for development of forest villages which has been provided to the Ministry. During 2007-08 (as on date), the Ministry has released central assistance to the following States for development of forest villages: Chhattisgarh (Rs.1034 lakh), Gujarat (Rs.593.62 lakh), Madhya Pradesh (Rs.2829 lakh) and Mizoram (Rs.190 lakh).

Source-LS, USQ No. 2348 dated 29.08.2007, asked by Mansukhbhai D. Vasava (Bhartiya Janta Party) and Dharendra Agarwal (Rashtriya Janta Dal), answered by M.V. Rajasekharan, Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning.

FOODGRAINS FOR TRIBALS

On an experimental basis in Nashik and Nandurbar districts, State Government of Maharashtra has started distribution of foodgrains by a new method. Under this method, with their prior consent the beneficiaries under the TPDS are distributed their quota of foodgrains for 3/6/12 months at one time during meetings of Gram Sabhas in villages. The present arrangement for distribution of foodgrains by the new method is only on an experimental basis, its detailed results are yet to be received. So there is yet no proposal to extend it to other areas.

Source-LS, USQ No. 3643 dated 10.09.2007, asked by Nedurumalli Janardhana Reddy (Indian National Congress), answered by Dr. Akhilesh Prasad Singh, Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and also in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.



Adivasis and Dalits

SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES POPULATION BELOW POVERTY LINE

The Planning Commission estimates the percentage and number of people living below the poverty line at the national and state level from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years following the methodology contained in the report of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor (Lakdawala Committee). On the basis of the large sample survey of household consumer expenditure of the 55th Round of the NSS (National Sample Survey), 27.09 per cent of the population in the rural areas of the country is estimated to live below the poverty line in 1999-2000. Based on the poverty line of all population and consumption expenditure distribution for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes obtained from the large sample survey of household consumer expenditure data of the 55th Round of the NSS, 36.25 percent of the Scheduled Castes and 45.86 percent of the Scheduled Tribes population in the rural areas are estimated to live below the poverty line in 1999-2000. The state-wise percentage of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people living below the poverty line in rural and urban areas in 1999-2000 estimated from the NSS consumer expenditure data of the 55th Round is given in the table below.

Percentage of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Population Below Poverty Line for 1999-2000					
Sl.No.	States	Rural		Urban	
		Scheduled Caste	Scheduled Tribe	Scheduled Caste	Scheduled Tribe
01.	Andhra Pradesh	16.49	23.82	41.42	44.99
02.	Assam	44.00	38.73	19.99	2.70
03.	Bihar	59.81	59.68	51.91	39.47
04.	Gujarat	17.77	29.11	29.13	36.66
05.	Haryana	19.03	—	25.38	—
06.	Himachal Pradesh	13.15	5.73	6.74	—
07.	Karnataka	26.22	25.49	47.01	51.37
08.	Kerala	14.64	24.20	24.15	—
09.	Madhya Pradesh	41.29	56.26	54.24	52.59
10.	Maharashtra	33.27	43.56	39.88	42.98
11.	Orissa	51.83	73.93	70.59	59.59
12.	Punjab	12.39	17.99	11.30	12.95
13.	Rajasthan	19.62	25.27	41.82	20.71
14.	Tamil Nadu	32.59	43.20	44.94	5.22
15.	Uttar Pradesh	43.65	34.06	43.51	13.27
16.	West Bengal	35.10	50.02	28.15	31.88
All India		36.25	45.86	38.47	34.75

- N.B. 1. Estimated from the Household Consumer Expenditure Data of 55th Round (July, 1999- June, 2000) of NSSO.
2. The Poverty Line for all population is used for SC's and ST's.

Source-RS, USQ No. 1309 dated 23.08.2007, asked by Janardhana Poojary, answered by M.V. Rajasekharan, Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning.



Adivasis and Dalits

JOB RESERVATION FOR SCs/STs IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR

In response to the commitment contained in the National Common Minimum Programme to initiate a dialogue with industry and other associations to fulfill the aspirations of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes youth, a Group of Ministers was formed. The Group met five times and also held consultations with the representatives of Apex Industry Associations. The Industry Associations are in favour of affirmative action but not in favour of reservation. To carry forward the process of dialogue, a Coordination Committee was constituted. The Committee held two meetings. During the discussion issues such as evolving a Code of Conduct; quantitative targets for capacity building through students scholarship for studies in premier educational institutions within the country and abroad, coaching programmes, entrepreneurship development and training; preparation of data base of SC/ST employees in private sector figured prominently. The Coordination Committee has not submitted interim report; during the discussion with the Industry Association following points emerged:

- Confidence of India Industry (CII) and Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) has evolved a Code of Conduct of Affirmative Action. Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has also agreed to soon evolve a similar plan of action.
- Industry Associations are willing to intensify their efforts in developing the skill sets and developing entrepreneurial abilities amongst SC/ST persons.
- There was a general agreement on positive discrimination in employment in favour of SC/ST persons i.e. other things being equal SC/ST persons will be given preference.
- Industry Chambers are agreeable to reporting of data on SC/ST employment
- Ombudsman will be appointed by Industry Associations to monitor the compliance with the voluntary Code of Conduct.

Source-LS, SQ No. 62 dated 16.08.2007, asked by Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu (Shivsena) and Jashubhai Dhanabhai Barad (Indian National Congress), answered by Meira Kumar, Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment.

COMMITTEES ON WELFARE OF DALITS

For a comprehensive review of strategies, policies and programmes in the Eleventh Five Year Plan, a Steering Committee on Empowerment of SCs, OBCs, and Minorities was set by Planning Commission in May 2006. It consists of fifty Members including Secretaries of four National Commissions i.e. for Scheduled Castes, Safai Karamcharis, Minorities and Backward Classes, academicians and social activists. Similarly, a Working Group on Empowerment of Scheduled Castes was set up to review the policies and programmes for development of Scheduled Castes in a focussed manner. The Working Group in its report submitted to Planning Commission has, inter alia, recommended.

- Proper implementation of the strategy of Scheduled Caste Sub Plan
- Continuation of major schemes of the Ministry for welfare of SCs
- Expanding the coverage of schemes
- Modification in some of the existing schemes

Source-LS, USQ No. 1615 dated 23.08.2007, asked by Sathyanarayana Sarvey (Indian National Congress), answered by Subbulakshmi Jagadeesan, Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.





Minorities

POPULATION OF MINORITIES

As per census 2001 report, total population of minorities notified under section 2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 is 189,508,794. The ratio of females per 1000 males in the age group of 0-6 years among Muslims is 950.

State-wise Population of Minorities in the Country

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Minority Population
	<i>India</i>	<i>189,508,794</i>
01.	Lakshadweep	58,419
02.	Jammu & Kashmir	7,134,480
03.	Assam	9,300,748
04.	West Bengal	21,065,448
05.	Kerala	13,926,058
06.	Uttar Pradesh	31,932,826
07.	Bihar	13,814,783
08.	Jharkhand	4,913,988
09.	Karnataka	7,880,917
10.	Uttaranchal	1,263,716
11.	Delhi	2,333,146
12.	Maharashtra	17,382,845
13.	Andhra Pradesh	8,231,808
14.	Gujarat	4,940,362
15.	Manipur (Excl. 3 Sub-Divisions)	932,096
16.	Rajasthan	5,689,642
17.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	108,451
18.	Tripura	457,035
19.	Daman & Diu	15,914
20.	Goa	453,397
21.	Madhya Pradesh	4,371,924
22.	Pondicherry	127,227
23.	Haryana	2,427,903
24.	Meghalaya	1,735,968
25.	Chandigarh	189,682
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	13,162
27.	Orissa	1,687,201
28.	Himachal Pradesh	275,413
29.	Chhattisgarh	945,538
30.	Arunachal Pradesh	371,116
31.	Nagaland	1,827,862
32.	Punjab	15,308,719
33.	Tamil Nadu	7,270,645
34.	Sikkim	197,026
35.	Mizoram	853,728

Note: The State-wise minority population does not include population of Parsis

Source-RS, USQ No. 1605 dated 27.08.2007, asked by Praveen Rashtrapal (Indian National Congress), answered by A.R. Antulay, Minister of Minority Affairs.



Minorities

COMMUNAL VIOLENCE BILL, 2005

Representations have been received from some organisations/groups suggesting, inter alia, to include targeted mass crimes; all gender-based crimes beyond schedule of offences; increased accountability of State Government authorities; national uniform entitlements of relief and rehabilitation for victims of communal violence; etc. within the ambit of the Bill. Suggestions have also been received to remove violence between different groups, castes or ethnic groups from the purview of the Bill and restricting the Bill to deal with communal violence only; requirement of receipt of request from State Governments for deployment of armed forces by Central Government; requirement of Government's sanction for prosecution of public servants. The groups have also urged the Government to redraft the Bill keeping in view their observations.

The aforesaid Bill was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 5.12.2005 and it was referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee. The Bill was also put on website and consultations were held by Government at various places. The Standing Committee obtained the views of the State Governments and political parties and also heard legal and constitutional experts, NGOs, etc. and after examining the Bill clause by clause submitted its report to the Parliament on 13.12.2006 making various observations/recommendations. Keeping in view the Standing Committee report and after consulting the Ministry of Law and Justice, the official amendments have been introduced in the Bill and a Notice has been given in Rajya Sabha on 9.3.2007 for consideration and passing of the Bill along with the official amendments. Notices of amendments were also given in Rajya Sabha on 27.4.2007 by Shri Prasanta Chatterjee and Shri Moinul Hassan, MPs incorporating some of the suggestions mentioned above.

Source-LS, USQ No. 399 dated 14.08.2007, asked by Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy (Communist Party of India) and Gurudas Das Gupta (Communist Party of India), answered by Sriprakash Jaiswal, Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs.



People with Different Abilities

WELFARE OF DISABLED

India has signed the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 30 March 2007 but no such commission on the lines of Human Rights Commission has been constituted as there is no such requirement under the UN Convention. Based on the Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgement 'Trust Fund for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities', under the Chairpersonship of Comptroller & Auditor General of India has been set up in which an amount of Rs. 49.66 crore has been deposited by the concerned banks.

Source-RS, USQ No. 2889 dated 10.09.2007, asked by B.K. Hariprasad (Indian National Congress), answered by Subbulakshmi Jagadeesan, Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

JOBS FOR THE PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED

In the Budget Speech for the year 2007-08, the Finance Minister has announced a scheme for reimbursing Government Share of Employees Provident Fund and Employees State Insurance for a period of three years to employers in the organised sector for providing regular jobs to Physically Challenged Persons. According to the survey on disabled persons conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation in 2002, only 26 per cent persons with disabilities were employed.

Source-RS, SQ No. 375 dated 10.09.2007, asked by Ravula Chandra Sekar Reddy, answered by Meira Kumar, Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment.

RESERVATION IN JUDICIARY FOR PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED PERSONS

There is a provision of three per cent reservation of vacancies in the Governments establishments for persons with disabilities in identified posts. The posts of Judges, Magistrates in Lower Judiciary are identified as suitable for persons with disabilities and therefore, reservation is available against the vacancies of these posts.

Source-RS, USQ No. 2264 dated 03.09.2007, asked by Pyarelal Khandelwalb (Bhartiya Janata Party), answered by Subbulakshmi Jagadeesan, Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMME

Under National Mental Health Programme efforts are made to provide mental health as a part of general health system. In this regard, the Central Government supplements the State Governments' efforts through District Mental Health Programme, Strengthening of Psychiatric Wings of Medical Colleges/General Hospitals and Modernisation/Upgradation of Mental Hospitals to make them as therapeutic units. During Tenth Plan District Mental Health Programme was expanded from 27 districts to 128 districts, 71 psychiatric wings of medical colleges/government hospitals were strengthened and 23 mental hospitals were modernized. Grants to State Governments are released on receipt of the complete proposals from the State Governments. The funds released to the States/Union Territories under National Mental Health Programme during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 is given in the Table on the back page.



Gender

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

The National Commission for Women has informed that efforts are made to hold maximum number of meetings of the Commission, amid discharge of Commission's other functions. 35 meetings of the Commission were held in the last 3 years. According to the Commission, the complaints are normally being addressed by the Commission promptly but the disposal of complaints mainly depends upon the action taken by the concerned state authorities. The information pertaining to the complaints received by the Commission is given in the Table below:

Complaints received by the NCW				
Sl.	Year	No. of Complaints Received	No. of Complaints on which action taken	Not Mandate & Closed Cases
01.	2004	5,760	3,358	2,402
02.	2005	11,610	6,629	4,454
03.	2006	12,960	7,201	4,842
04.	2007	3,614 (as on 31.3.2007)	1,112	514

Taking into account the distress of senior citizens, women and disabled litigants in regular courts, the Minister of Law & Justice had addressed a communication dated 10.7.2003 to Chief Ministers of all States and Chief Justices of all High Courts to earmark one Fast Track Court in each district for disposal of cases involving abuse of women, senior citizens and the disabled.

Source-LS, USQ No. 1296 dated 21.08.2007, asked by Sumitra Mahajan (Bhartiya Janta Party) and P. Satheedevi (Communist Party of India (Marxist), answered by Renuka Chowdhury, Minister of State (Independent Charge) in the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

WOMEN ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURE

The number of total women workers (cultivators and agricultural labourers) engaged in agriculture and agri-related activities in the country as per 2001 population Census is 91,342,583. Data on agricultural property held by women are not available. The number of total women workers (cultivators and agricultural labourers) engaged in agriculture and agri-related activities in the country as per 2001 population Census are given in the Table on the back page:



Gender

The number of total Women Workers (Cultivators and Agricultural Labourers) engaged in Agriculture and Agri-related activities in the country as per 2001 population Census

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Number of Women in Agriculture
01.	Andhra Pradesh	10036381
02.	Arunachal Pradesh	151475
03.	Assam	1527729
04.	Bihar	6423849
05.	Chandigarh	556
06.	Chhattisgarh	3673453
07.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	30684
08.	Daman & Diu	3002
09.	Delhi	15140
10.	Goa	44523
11.	Gujarat	4547991
12.	Haryana	1724155
13.	Himachal Pradesh	1159071
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	643061
15.	Jharkhand	2850110
16.	Karnataka	5657031
17.	Kerala	664614
18.	Madhya Pradesh	8037432
19.	Maharashtra	11023807
20.	Manipur	229125
21.	Meghalaya	292798
22.	Mizoram	139843
23.	Nagaland	292840
24.	Orissa	3311878
25.	Pondicherry	31397
26.	Punjab	687919
27.	Rajasthan	7545727
28.	Sikkim	69389
29.	Tamil Nadu	6234820
30.	Tripura	205830
31.	Uttar Pradesh	9842987
32.	Uttarakhand	954883
33.	West Bengal	3281433
34.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	7650
	Total	9,13,42,583

Source: Census of India, 2001

Source-LS, USQ No. 3781 dated 10.09.2007, asked by Kavuru Samba Siva Rao (Indian National Congress), answered by Kantilal Bhuria, Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture.

RATIO OF WOMEN IN POLICE

A national meet of the State Home Secretaries and Directors General of Police was organized on 25.8.2004 on 'Crime against Women'. The conference made several recommendations and, inter alia, emphasized



Gender

the need for immediate registration of FIR, prompt investigation of cases, setting up of women police cells and exclusive women police stations and sensitizing police officials about gender issues and crime against women. Since 'Police' is a State subject, taking of steps for recruiting more women in police and looking after their welfare falls entirely under the jurisdiction of State Governments. The Union Government, from time to time, has been issuing advisories to the State Governments for making efforts to recruit more women in the police and provide welfare measures. Percentage of Ratio of women in police as compared to men is given in the Table below:

Percentage of Ratio of Women in Police as compared to Men (As on 31.12.2005)				
Sl.No.	States	Actual strength of police as on 1.12.2005 (men+women)	Actual strength of women as on 31.12.2005	% age Ratio of women in police as compared to men
01.	Andhra Pradesh	65564	1393	2.12
02.	Arunachal Pradesh	3189	138	4.33
03.	Assam	28341	223	0.79
04.	Bihar	42213	890	2.11
05.	Chhattisgarh	13487	567	4.20
06.	Goa	3002	223	7.43
07.	Gujarat	46752	1632	3.49
08.	Haryana	30419	829	2.73
09.	Himachal Pradesh	8053	475	5.90
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	46553	888	1.91
11.	Jharkhand	22151	245	1.11
12.	Karnataka	50634	3112	6.15
13.	Kerala	35216	2018	5.73
14.	Madhya Pradesh	54125	1955	3.61
15.	Maharashtra	122536	7283	5.94
16.	Manipur	4768	234	4.91
17.	Meghalaya	5634	125	2.22
18.	Mizoram	3616	0	0
19.	Nagaland	5500	19	0.35
20.	Orissa	26484	323	1.22
21.	Punjab	52142	1515	2.91
22.	Rajasthan	51880	1250	2.41
23.	Sikkim	1922	178	9.26
24.	Tamil Nadu	70900	7980	11.26
25.	Tripura	9381	224	2.38
26.	Uttar Pradesh	120139	2128	1.77
27.	Uttaranchal	9143	435	4.76
28.	West Bengal	60972	1318	2.16
29.	A & N Islands	2232	129	5.78
30.	Chandigarh	3644	261	7.16
31.	D & N. Haveli	223	8	3.59
32.	Daman & Diu	244	0	0
33.	Delhi	43723	2027	4.64
34.	Lakshdweep	273	16	5.86
35.	Pondicherry	1520	60	3.95
	Total	1046575	40101	3.83

Source-LS, USQ No. 352 dated 14.08.2007, asked by Sathyanarayana Sarvey (Indian National Congress), answered by Manikrao Hodlya Gavit, Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs.



Gender

WOMEN JUDGES IN HIGH COURTS AND SUPREME COURT

Appointments of Judges of the Supreme Court of India and High Courts are made under articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution of India, respectively, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. After the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 in the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record & Anr. Vs. Union of India, read with the Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998, the entire process of initiation of proposal for appointment of a Judge of a Supreme Court lies with the Chief Justice of India and for the appointment of a Judge of a High Court, with the Chief Justice of that High Court. The Government have, however, addressed letters to the Chief Ministers of the States and the Chief Justices of the High Courts, from time to time, requesting them to locate persons from the Bar belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, other Backward Classes, Minorities and amongst Women who are suitable for appointment as High Court Judges. The number of women judges both in Supreme Court and in the High Courts as on 06.08.2007 is given in the Table below:

Number of Women Judges as on 06.08.2007					
Sl. No.	Court	Sanctioned strength	No of Judges in position	No of Women Judges	No of Male Judges
	Supreme Court	26	22	-	22
High Courts					
01.	Allahabad	95	76	04	72
02.	Andhra Pradesh	39	31	02	29
03.	Bombay	61	53	05	48
04.	Calcutta	50	42	02	40
05.	Chhattisgarh	08	06	00	06
06.	Delhi	36	32	05	27
07.	Gauhati	23	23	01	22
08.	Gujarat	42	30	03	27
09.	Himachal Pradesh	09	09	00	09
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	14	09	00	09
11.	Jharkhand	12	09	00	09
12.	Karnataka	40	36	01	35
13.	Kerala	29	27	01	26
14.	Madhya Pradesh	42	41	04	37
15.	Madras	46	44	04	40
16.	Orissa	20	14	01	13
17.	Patna	31	31	04	27
18.	Punjab & Haryana	40	35	01	34
19.	Rajasthan	40	37	01	36
20.	Sikkim	3	01	00	01
21.	Uttaranchal	9	09	00	09
	TOTAL	689	595	39	556

Source-RS, USQ No. 802 dated 20.08.2007, asked by Ajay Maroo, answered by K. Venkatapathy, Minister of State in the Ministry of Law and Justice.



Governance

EMPLOYMENT TO RURAL LABOURERS AND YOUTHS

Government has been implementing special employment generation schemes such as Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana, Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana, Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, etc. to provide employment to both educated and uneducated unemployed persons in rural areas. Approach Paper to Eleventh Five Year Plan envisages creation of 70 million jobs during the 11th Plan. State wise number of job seekers including youth, all of whom may not necessarily be unemployed, registered with employment exchanges in rural areas in the country as on 31-12-2006 is given in the Table below:

State wise number of rural job seekers registered with employment exchanges as on 31-12-2006 (In thousand)			
States/UTs	2006	States/UTs	2006
Andhra Pradesh	1516.7	Mizoram	7.0
Arunachal Pradesh	2.4	Nagaland	16.2
Assam	1183.6	Orissa	628.3
Bihar	1116.1	Punjab	241.9
Chhattisgarh	651.7	Rajasthan	420.5
Delhi	112.1	Sikkim *	
Goa	71.5	Tamil Nadu	2129.2
Gujarat	465.3	Tripura	222.0
Haryana	701.2	Uttarakhand	312.6
Himachal Pradesh	674.2	Uttar Pradesh	1667.7
Jammu And Kashmir	44.1	West Bengal	4352.6
Jharkhand	771.9	A. & N. Islands	-
Karnataka	544.2	Chandigarh	@
Kerala	3034.1	D. & N. Haveli	6.5
Madhya Pradesh	1058.4	Daman And Diu	3.1
Maharashtra	2025.1	Lakshadweep	11.2
Manipur	354.4	Puducherry	24.7
Meghalaya	13.7	Total	24384.3

Note:

- * No exchange is working in the State.
Total may not tally due to rounding off.
- Nil.
- @ Less than fifty

Source-LS, USQ No. 2802 dated 03.09.2007, asked by Ajay Chakraborty and E.G. Sugavanam, answered by Oscar Fernandis, Minister of State (Independent Charge) in the Ministry of Labour and Employment.



IRREGULARITIES IN BPL LISTS

The Government have issued detailed guidelines to the States and Union Territories to prepare the New BPL list on the basis of BPL Census 2002 in a transparent manner. The procedure prescribed for this purpose includes approval of the BPL list by the Gram Sabha, displaying the draft BPL list at the Panchayat Head Quarter and facilitating the people to file their objections, if any, to their ranking in the new BPL list. In addition, a two-stage appeal mechanism has also been provided where a person having an objection to the list can file the first appeal with the SDM or the Tehsildar, as the case may be. If still not satisfied, he also has the option to file the second appeal with the Collector. As a result of these measures of ensuring transparency, most of the States have reported the receipt of a large number of objections raised by the people to the proposed New BPL list, which are being addressed to through the institutional mechanism provided in the guidelines. The States and UTs have also been advised to make a provision to allow new names to be added and ineligible names deleted from the BPL list on a continuous basis during the period to which the list applies to redress the public grievances.

Source-LS, USQ No. 103, dated 10.08.2007, asked by Raghuvir Singh Kaushal, answered by Suryakanta Patil, Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development.

FINALISATION OF BPL LIST

The Ministry of Rural Development conducts the BPL Census to identify the households in rural areas living Below the Poverty Line who could be assisted under the programmes of this Ministry. The BPL Census is generally conducted in the beginning of the Five Year Plan and first such BPL Census was conducted in 1992 for the 8th Five Year Plan. The Ministry had issued guidelines in September, 2002 to the States and UTs to conduct the 'BPL Census 2002' for the 10th Five Year Plan. However, the results of the BPL Census 2002 could not be finalized because of the stay order passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court on 5.5.2003 during the hearing of a Writ Petition No.196 of 2001 in the matter of PUCL V/s Union of India. The stay was vacated by the Hon'ble Supreme Court on 14.2.2006. Immediately after vacation of the stay, the State Governments were advised to finalise the BPL list in a transparent manner. In order to ensure transparency, it is required to get the BPL lists approved by the Gram Sabhas. It was also suggested to give wide publicity to the process of preparation of BPL list by displaying it at the Panchayat Headquarters. The guidelines have also been issued to keep the printed copies of the BPL list in the form of a booklet at the Panchayat Headquarters, paint the list of BPL families on the wall of the Panchayat building in the ascending order and also post the BPL list on the website. In order to redress the public grievances, a provision of two-stage appeal mechanism was also made so that people having any grievance with regard to their rank in the New BPL list, can file the first appeal with the Tehsildar or the SDM as the case may be and the second appeal with the Collector.

As per latest available reports, 14 States and UTs have finalized the New BPL list after getting it approved by the Gram Sabhas. In the remaining States and UTs, the finalization of New BPL list is in an advanced stage. The state-wise status is given in the Table No. After the vacation of the stay by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, getting the BPL lists approved by the Gram Sabhas and completion of two-stage appeal process took time in finalisation of New BPL lists. The State Governments are reported to have received a large number of objections from the people and it took considerable time to dispose them. Therefore, it has resulted in delay in finalising the New BPL lists.



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State-wise status of BPL Census, 2002

Sl. No.	States	Status
01.	Andhra Pradesh	The score based house hold list approved by Gram Sabha is available in the booklet form in the districts
02.	Arunachal Pradesh	BPL list finalised in all respects
03.	Assam	Survey completed and BPL list prepared and printed in most of districts. However, finalization is pending due to addition/ deletion on account of appeals
04.	Bihar	Cut off point has been decided as 13. The process of finalizing the list is in progress.
05.	Chhattisgarh	The BPL list has been finalised in all respects
06.	Goa	The BPL list has been finalised
07.	Gujarat	The BPL list has been finalized by 23 districts out of 25 districts
08.	Haryana	State Govt. noticed a large scale irregularities in the BPL survey conducted in 2002. In view of large scale complaints, entire survey has been scrapped. A fresh survey in all the villages has been started w.e.f. 1.3.2007. BPL list is expected to be drawn by August, 2007
09.	Himachal	All formalities completed in all GPs except in 5 GPs. The Pradesh Deputy Commissioners of the respective districts have been instructed to get the issue resolved in a time bound manner
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	Work is in progress and completed shortly
11.	Jharkhand	The BPL list has been finalised and displayed on the website
12.	Karnataka	The BPL list has been finalised and displayed on the website
13.	Kerala	The BPL list will be finalised by the middle of August, 2007
14.	Madhya Pradesh	The BPL list has been finalised and displayed on the website
15.	Maharashtra	The BPL list has been finalised
16.	Manipur	Latest status still awaited
17.	Meghalaya	Survey completed but the BPL list is yet to be finalized
18.	Mizoram	The BPL list is reported to have been finalized but yet to be received in the Ministry
19.	Nagaland	The BPL list has been finalized
20.	Orissa	A Meeting of the High Power Committee is being convened to finalise the BPL list
21.	Punjab	The BPL list has been finalised but it is yet to be displayed on the website
22.	Rajasthan	District-wise BPL list has been finalised and has been displayed on the website. The districts having variation of more 30% in the number of BPL families as compared to 1997 survey have been advised to recheck the position simultaneously
23.	Sikkim	The BPL list has been prepared but is not displayed on the website
24.	Tamil Nadu	The cut off score is 17. The BPL list will be finalised shortly
25.	Tripura	The BPL list is yet to be finalised
26.	Uttar Pradesh	The BPL list has been finalised and have been put on the website
27.	Uttrakhand	The BPL list has been finalised
28.	West Bengal	Conducted a fresh household survey in 2005. Draft BPL lists are reported to have been approved by the Gram Sabhas, Discussed with the State Govt. official, final results are expected by the end of August, 2007
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	BPL list finalised
30.	Daman & Diu	BPL list finalised
31.	Lakshadweep	The BPL list has been published. The objections of the people are being looked into

Source-LS, SQ No. 85 dated 17.08.2007, asked by Sanat Kumar Mandal and Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi, answered by Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Minister of Rural Development.



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EXPERT COMMITTEE ON RURAL INDEBTEDNESS

The Expert Committee on Rural Indebtedness, set up by Government under the Chairpersonship of Dr. R. Radhakrishna, has submitted its report. This Report focuses on institutions and instruments that would strengthen the credit delivery mechanism for the farm community in particular and for rural India in general. While doing so, it takes cognizance of the imperatives of addressing the credit absorption and demand-side issues. Policy interventions and institutional reforms essential for resolving the farm crisis, which go beyond the credit delivery system, also form part of this Report. In the long-term interest of the financial system, a positive repayment culture for bank loans deserves to be actively promoted. The Report recommends as under:

Immediate Credit Measures include:

Implementation of the Prime Minister's Relief Package : The needs of individual households should be taken into account with necessary flexibility. Rescheduling of loan of farmers affected by natural calamities. Credit for Rainfed Areas; Formalisation of informal credit; Inclusion of financially excluded'; Project-Based Lending;

Financial Architecture include:

Agency and Mobile Banking; System of Bharat Kisan Credit Card; Reforming Lead Bank Scheme; Credit Counseling for Farmers; Simplifying the Procedure for Mortgages; Simplifying procedure to Reduce Transaction Costs; Computerisation of Records; Integration of Micro Finance Institutions with the Mainstream Banking; Improved Deployment of RIDF.

Institutional Architecture include:

Federations of Farmers - SHGs

Risk Mitigation Measures include:

Crop Insurance; Weather Insurance; Price Risk Mitigation; Variable Tariff; Crop Surveillance; Mitigating Risks from Spurious Inputs; Strengthening of Research and Extension Services.

Other Measures include:

Expanding Livelihood Base and Rural Health Facilities.

Source-LS, USQ No. 807 dated 17.08.2007, asked by Dr. M. Jagannath, answered by Pawan Kumar Bansal, Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance.

VAIDYANATHAN COMMITTEE

Based on the recommendations made by the Task Force on revival of Rural Cooperative Credit Institutions (Chairman: Prof. A. Vaidyanathan), Government of India has approved a revival package for the Short-term Rural Cooperative Credit Institutions involving financial, legal and institutional measures. Under the revival package, so far, Rs.423.64 crore and Rs.57.63 crore have been released to Andhra Pradesh and Haryana respectively as Government of India contribution towards recapitalization of eligible Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS). The funding liability under the revival package will be shared by the Government of India, State Government and Cooperative Credit Structure based on origin of the losses and existing commitments. The release of funds by Government of India under the package is dependent mainly upon:



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- State Government accepting the Package
- State Government signing MoU with GoI & NABARD
- State Government amending the Cooperative Societies Act through Ordinance/Bill, and
- State Government releasing its share

Source-LS, SQ No. 379 dated 10.09.2007, asked by Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma and Hansraj Gangaram Ahir, answered by Sharad Pawar, Minister of Agriculture and also Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.

CENTRAL SCHEMES AND CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEMES

The Centre Sector (CS) Schemes are those which deal with the subjects in the Union List and are funded and implemented by Central Ministry / Department or its agency. Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) are those schemes which do not pertain to the subjects in the Union List but which are funded directly by Central Ministries/Departments and are implemented by States or their agencies irrespective of their pattern of financing.

There were 993 Central Sector Schemes and 99 Centrally Sponsored Schemes in operation during 2007-08 as per Statement of Budget Estimates (SBEs). The percentage share of State and Central contribution in the Centrally Sponsored Schemes varies from scheme to scheme depending upon the nature and the objectives to be achieved. Central Sector Schemes are fully funded by the Union Government. Monitoring and Evaluation mechanisms have been created at different levels of Central and State Governments as part of the programme guidelines of each scheme.

Source-RS, SQ No. 170 dated 23.08.2007, asked by Mahmood A. Madani and Santosh Bagrodia, answered by M.V. Rajasekharan, Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST NATIONAL LEVEL MONITORS

Monitoring of the rural development programmes being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development is done through a multi-level and multi-tool mechanism. Suggestions to improve the monitoring mechanism received from the members of the Standing Committee on Rural Development, Parliamentary Consultative Committee, State/District Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees, Performance Review Committee of the Ministry, Members of Parliament and general public from time to time, have been incorporated in the system. Some of these are engagement of National Level Monitors, District Level Monitors, revitalization of District Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees and emphasis on physical and quality verification of assets etc.

About 1790 visits have been undertaken by National Level Monitors (NLMs) during 2003-04 to 2006-07 in different districts. One formal complaint against one NLM has been received during the period. The concerned NLM has been debarred from the panel of NLMs.

Source-LS, USQ No. 2685 dated 31.08.2007, asked by Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo and Dharendra Agarwal, answered by Suryakanta Patil, Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development.



HIKE IN WAGES UNDER NREGS

Section 6(1) of the NREG Act provides that the Central Government may, by notification, specify the wage rate for the purposes of the Act. Section 6(2) further provides that until such time a wage rate is fixed by the Central Government in respect of any area in a State, the minimum wage fixed by the State under Section 3 of the Minimum Wages Act 1948 for agricultural labourers shall be considered as the wage rate applicable to that area. Central Government has not fixed a wage rate under NREGA for any of the States. Therefore, the minimum wages notified for agricultural labourers under Minimum Wages Act by the State Governments are applicable to NREGA. As such, the wages under NREGA are not the same in all the States. A statement indicating the prevailing minimum wages for agricultural labourers notified by State Governments under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and as applicable to NREGA in various States is given in the Table below:

Fixation of wage rate under Minimum Wages Act, 1948 is within the jurisdiction of the State Governments.		
Sl. No.	Name of State/District	Prevailing Wage rate under NREGA(Rs./Day)2007-08
01.	Assam	66.00
02.	Andhra Pradesh	80.00
03.	Arunachal Pradesh	Area – I – 65.00, Area – II – 67.00
04.	Bihar	77.00
05.	Gujarat	50.00
06.	Haryana	99.21
07.	Himachal Pradesh	75.00
08.	Jammu & Kashmir	70.00
09.	Karnataka	74.00
10.	Kerala	125.00
11.	Madhya Pradesh	67.00
12.	Maharashtra	72, 70, 68 & 66 respectively for Zone I, II, III, IV
13.	Manipur	81.40 for Hill & Valley
14.	Meghalaya	70.00
15.	Mizoram	91.00
16.	Nagaland	100.00
17.	Orissa	70.00
18.	Punjab	
	■ Hoshiarpur	■ 95.00
	■ Jalandhar	■ 93.00
	■ Nawanshar	■ 94.00
	■ Amritsar	■ 95.00
19.	Rajasthan	73.00
20.	Sikkim	85.00
21.	Tamil Nadu	80.00
22.	Tripura	60.00
23.	Uttar Pradesh	100.00
24.	West Bengal	70.00
25.	Chhattisgarh	66.70
26.	Jharkhand	76.68
27.	Uttaranchal	73.00

Source-LS, SQ No. 261 dated 31.08.2007, asked by Ram Kripal Yadav, answered by Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Minister of Rural Development.



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CONSTITUTION OF RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE COUNCILS

Section 4(1) of NREG Act provides that every State Government shall, within six months from the date of commencement of the Act (subsequently extended up to one year by way of an amendment dated 8.1.2007), shall formulate an Employment Guarantee Scheme providing for not less than one hundred days of guaranteed employment in a financial year to every household in the rural areas covered under the scheme and whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Section 12(1) of the Act provides for constitution of State Employment Guarantee Council by each State for the purposes of regular monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the Act. The status of the State schemes and State Employment Guarantee Councils is given in the Table below. No time-frame for formulation of State Employment Guarantee Council has been provided under the Act.

Status of the Schemes formulated by the States under NREGA			
SI.No.	Name of the States	Status of State Scheme	Status of State Council
01.	Andhra Pradesh	Notified	Constituted
02.	Arunachal Pradesh	Notified	Constituted
03.	Assam	Notified	
04.	Bihar	Notified	
05.	Chattisgarh	Notified	Constituted
06.	Gujrat	Notified	
07.	Haryana	Notified	
08.	Himachal Pradesh	Notified	Constituted
09.	Jammu & Kashmir	Notified	Constituted
10.	Jharkhand	Notified	Constituted
11.	Karnataka	Notified	Constituted
12.	Kerala	Notified	
13.	Madhya Pradesh	Notified	Constituted
14.	Maharashtra	Notified	Constituted
15.	Manipur	Notified	Constituted
16.	Meghalaya	Notified	Constituted
17.	Mizoram	Notified	Constituted
18.	Nagaland	Notified	Constituted
19.	Orissa	Notified	
20.	Punjab	Notified	
21.	Rajasthan	Notified	Constituted
22.	Sikkim	Notified	
23.	Tripura	Notified	Constituted
24.	Tamil Nadu	Notified	Constituted
25.	Uttaranchal	Notified	
26.	Uttar Pradesh	Notified	Constituted
27.	West Bengal	Notified	Constituted

Source-RS, USQ No. 2421 dated 05.09.2007, asked by Sitaram Yechuri, answered by Chandra Sekhar Sahu, Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development.



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TIME AND MOTION STUDIES FOR NREGA

Six States namely Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Gujarat, Orissa and West Bengal have done Work, Time and Motion Study and have revised their Schedule of Rates (SORs) accordingly. All the States have been asked to get the Work, Time and Motion studies done by competent authorities at the earliest.

Source-RS, USQ No. 1187 dated 22.08.2007, asked by Brinda Karat, answered by Chandra Sekhar Sahu, Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development.

PARTICIPATION OF NGOS AND VOS IN NREGS

Section 17(2) of the NREGA provides that the Gram Sabha shall conduct regular social audits of all the projects under the Scheme taken up within the Gram Panchayat. Accordingly, the Ministry had issued instructions to all States to complete social audit within three months. As per the reports received, the following issues have been highlighted:

- Participation of women in large numbers
- Increasing awareness among wage earners of wage rates and need for timely payment of wages
- Need for strengthening capacity to meet demand for employment through additional staffing at Gram Panchayat level
- Need to improve maintenance of muster rolls and job cards
- Worksite facilities need to be made available

States have been advised by the Ministry to take necessary action

Applications had been called for from Civil Society Organisations/professional Institutions for undertaking the task of capacity building of local rural communities to access their entitlements and assert their rights under NREGA. The tasks to be undertaken include:

- Social mobilization and awareness generation through door to door contact campaigns, village conventions, personal contact programmes
- Training of NREGA workforce, members of village vigilance and monitoring committee, members of Gram Panchayat and Gram Rozgar sewak on NREGA procedures and their roles
- Enabling local community to apply under NREGA for various entitlements covered under its legal Guarantee
- Enabling NREGA workforce to verify the benefits due to them, inter alia, their muster rolls, and job cards entries

About 2500 applications have been received. CAPART, an Autonomous Body under the Ministry, has been entrusted the task of scrutiny and training to the Civil Society Organisation to enable them to undertake the activities listed above.

Source-LS, SQ No. 356, dated 07.09.2007, asked by Kavuru Samba Siva Rao, answered by Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Minister of Rural Development.



ANGANWADI SCHEME

The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme was launched in the year 1975, for children below the age of six years and pregnant women and lactating mothers. The scheme was introduced with the objectives of improving nutritional and health status of children and women in the targeted groups. Under the Scheme, the expenditure incurred towards supplementary nutrition is reckoned on the basis of per beneficiary cost. The present cost norms are as follows:

Children	Norms
6 Months to 12 Months	Rs.2.00 per child/per day
Severely malnourished children (6 Months to 72 Months)	Rs.2.70 per child/ per day
Pregnant women and nursing mothers/adolescent girls (under KSY)	Rs.2.30 per beneficiary/per day

Central assistance limited to 50% of actual expenditure incurred or 50% of the cost norms whichever is less, was introduced by the Government from the year 2005- 2006. As reported by the States, the expenditure towards supplementary nutrition, per beneficiary was Rs.1.10 and Rs.1.27 for the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively. It reveals that the States, on an average, have been spending less than the prescribed financial norms.

Source-LS, USQ No. 1237 dated 21.08.2007, asked by Sumitra Mahajan, answered by Renuka Chowdhury, Minister of State (Independent Charge) in the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

MALNUTRITION AMONG CHILDREN

As per National Family Health Survey (NFHS) – 3 (2005-06), conducted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 45.9% children are suffering from malnutrition in the country. After the census of 2001, only National Family Health Survey – 3 has been conducted in year 2005-2006. However, as per NFHS, the extent of malnutrition among children declined from 52% in 1992-93 to 45.9% in 2005-2006. As per the Human Development Report, 2006 the prevalence of low birth weight in India is 30% which is higher in comparison to other South Asian Countries except Bangladesh

Infant with Low Birth Weight (LBW) among South Asian Countries		
Sl.No.	Name of the Country	% 1996-2004
01.	India	30
02.	Bangladesh	30
03.	Maldives	22
04.	Sri Lanka	22
05.	Nepal	21
06.	Pakistan	19
07.	Bhutan	15

Source: Human Development Report, 2006

Source-RS, USQ No. 2904 dated 10.09.2007, asked by Matilal Sarkar, answered by Renuka Chowdhury, Minister of State (Independent Charge) in the Ministry of Women and Child Development.



WHO STANDARDS ON CHILD GROWTH

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has taken a decision to adopt the new WHO Child Growth Standards in Integrated Child Development Services which may marginally improve our poor rating on global child nutrition scenario. The new WHO Child Growth Standards are based on a multi-centric study carried out in six countries including India. These are scientific, gender specific and for the first time describe, “how children should grow”. The standard formulation utilizes growth of healthy children only. Hence the question of taking into account the cases of malnutrition of children in Vidarbha region or the judgement of Bombay High Court in this matter does not arise.

The Survey Report titled “Focus on children under Six”, brought out by the Citizens Initiatives for the Rights of Children under Six, indicated a decline in the qualitative aspects of the programme in some of the States/UTs. Taking a serious view of the observations made therein, the Hon'ble Prime Minister in a letter to the Chief Ministers, impressed upon them the need to set up an institutional review process at their level after carrying out a detailed assessment of the Programme in their State; lay emphasis on the programme status in areas with concentration of minority communities and preponderance of Scheduled Castes and Tribes, adequately empower Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to monitor and supervise the working of these Committees; make line officials firmly accountable for their action and report on a quarterly basis on further developments in this sector.

Source-RS, USQ No. 897 dated 20.08.2007, asked by Vijay J. Darda and Gireesh Kumar Sanghi, answered by Renuka Chowdhury, Minister of State (Independent Charge) in the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

INTEGRATED CHILD PROTECTION SCHEME

Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing the following schemes for welfare of children:

- A Programme for Juvenile Justice
- An Integrated Programme for Street Children
- Scheme for Assistance to Homes (Shishu Greh) for Children to Promote In-country Adoption
- Scheme for Welfare of Working Children in Need of care and Protection

The details of budget allocation and funds released under these schemes during the years 2004-05 to 2007-08 are given in the Table No. Ministry has formulated a new centrally sponsored scheme – ‘Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) aimed at providing a conducive environment for comprehensive development of children in all the states of the country during the 11th Plan, merging the existing schemes.



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Details of budget allocation and funds released during the period from 2004-05 to 2007-08

(Rs. in Crore)

2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08 (as on 16.08.07)	
Budget allocation	Funds released	Budget allocation	Funds released	Budget allocation	Funds released	Budget allocation	Funds released
A Programme for Juvenile Justice							
18.90	19.71	22.69	20.03	24.55	21.78	21.00	1.91
A Integrated programme for Street Children							
12.40	11.78	12.20	10.59	11.00	10.16	10.00	1.84
Scheme for Assistance to Homes (Shishu Greh) for Children to promote In-country Adoption							
2.65	2.23	5.00	2.24	3.00	2.59	3.00	0.52
Scheme for the Welfare of Working Children (iv) in Need of Care and Protection							
1.00	0.07	2.00	1.12	3.00	2.77	7.00	1.87

Source-LS, USQ No. 1327 dated 21.08.2007, asked by K.C. Pallani Shamy and Minati Sen, answered by Renuka Chowdhury, Minister of State (Independent Charge) in the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS'S GUIDELINES

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has recently circulated guidelines to the State Government and Union Territory Administrations on 'Corporal Punishment in Schools'. The State Government and Union Territory administrations have been asked to ensure the following:

- All children are to be informed through campaigns and publicity drives that they have a right to speak against corporal punishment and bring it to the notice of the authorities. They must be given confidence to make complaints and not accept punishment as a 'normal' activity of the school.
- Every school, including hostels, JJ Homes, shelter homes and other public institutions meant for children must have a forum where children can express their views. Such institutions could take the help of an NGO for facilitating such an exercise.
- Further a box where children can drop their complaints even if anonymous has to be provided for in each school.
- There has to be a monthly meeting of PTAs or any other body such as the SEC/VEC to review the complaints and take action.
- The PTAs are to be encouraged to act immediately on any complaints made by children without postponement of the issue and prevent a more grave injury being caused.
- Parents as well as children are to be empowered to speak out against corporal punishment without any fear that it would have adverse effect on children's participation in schools.
- The education department at all levels-block, district and State are to establish procedures for reviewing the responses to the complaints of children and monitoring the action taken on the same.

Source-RS, USQ No. 1663 dated 27.08.2007, asked by T.T.V. Dhinakaran, answered by Renuka Chowdhury, Minister of State (Independent Charge) in the Ministry of Women and Child Development.



BILL FOR RIGHT TO EDUCATION

The 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, notified on 13th December, 2002, inserts Article 21A in the Constitution, which provides that 'the State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years in such manner as the State may, by law, determine' Section 1(2) of the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act provides that 'it shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint' The notification has not yet been issued pending enactment of the consequential legislation envisaged under Article 21A. A draft Model Right to Education Bill, 2006 was formulated and circulated for comments of the States/UTs. The comments from 23 States/UTs have been received.

The main objections raised by the States and UTs relate to:

- Proposed replacement of the Central Legislation by a Model Bill for State Legislation.
- Linkage of SSA funding with State/UT enactment of Model Right to Education Bill or modification of existing State/UT Acts.
- Making elementary education first charge on revenues of each State Government, next only to law and order.
- Financial liability for free and compulsory education to be borne by the States/UTs.

Source-RS, USQ No. 1559 dated 27.08.2007, asked by Shobhana Bhartia and Supriya Sule, answered by M.A.A. Fatmi, Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

