

## CHAPTER 12

### POINT 11 : JUSTICE TO SCHEDULED CASTES & SCHEDULED TRIBES

12.1.1 Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) constitute 16.5% and 8.08% of Indian population respectively. More than half the Scheduled Caste population is concentrated in the seven States of Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. The Scheduled Castes constitute more than one fifth of the population in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and West Bengal. The States of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Union Territory of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep have majority of Tribal population. SCs and STs mostly live in the rural areas all over the country. A part of the ST population still lives in isolated places and are not integrated with the national mainstream. Government has always given highest priority towards protection of SCs and STs, safeguarding their interests and ensuring socio-economic justice to them.

12.1.2 The Scheduled Castes mainly earn their livelihood through own labour, by working either on the lands of others, or in occupations such as scavenging, flaying and tanning of leather, which reflect their social and economic subjugation or dependence. As against the national average of 67%, more than three-quarters of SC workers are engaged in primary sectors activities. On the other hand proportion of these engaged in the tertiary sector is nearly half the national average. Their work participation rates, particularly of SC women, are higher than the national figure. Most significantly, half the Scheduled Caste main workers are agricultural wage labourers, in contrast to the national average of 26%. Although practice of untouchability has been declining all over the country, caste rigidities continue to prevail.

12.1.3 The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment are intended to support and supplement the efforts of other Central Ministries, the State Governments/UT Administrations and voluntary organisations through financial assistance, and to fill critical gaps taking into account the situation of the Scheduled Castes. The schemes administered by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment are mostly implemented through the State Governments and UT Administrations as Centrally Sponsored Schemes. The Ministry is also implementing the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their Dependents with the objective of liberating them from the hereditary and inhuman occupation of manually removing night soil and filth and to provide for and engage them in alternate occupations. The Ministry has also introduced the concept of "*Sanitary Mart*" to make the scheme more viable. This scheme has been transferred to Ministry of Urban Development in 2003-2004.

12.1.4 The forces of urbanisation, social and protective legislation, and other measures have led to gradual improvement in occupational mobility and living standards of SCs over the years, but the living conditions of the majority of them remain worse than those of others. For instance only 6.62% of SC households have access to safe drinking water, electricity, and toilet facilities as against 20% of non SC/ ST households. Considerable disparities also persist, although they are narrowing in literacy and educational development. As against the national average of 52%, the literacy rate among SCs is around 37%. More than three quarters of SC women are illiterate. Literacy rates among SC women in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan, in particular, are much lower than the general average of these States.

12.1.5 The ST Population in the country is living in remote and forest areas of the country. Most of them are slowly joining the national mainstream. In terms of education, occupation, and living conditions they are still backwards. Efforts are being made by the Government and the NGOs to improve their living. Tribal Sub-Plan are implemented through 194 Integrated Tribal Development Projects, 252 Modified Area Development Approach, 7 Pockets, 79 Clusters and 75 Primitive Tribal Groups. The benefit of family beneficiary oriented programme are given to the tribal irrespective of the fact that they reside within or outside the TSP areas of a particular State/UT.

12.1.6 Under this point of TPP-86, the following 8 items are monitored:

#### A Quantitatively monitored items:

1. SC Families Assisted, and
2. ST Families Assisted.

#### B Qualitatively monitored items:

3. Release of Central Share,
4. Compliance with Law
5. Improving Educational Standards,
6. Rehabilitation of Safai Karamcharis,
7. Integration with Community, and
8. Rehabilitation of Tribals Displaced by Projects.

12.2 **SC Families Assisted:-** The Annual target fixed for year 2003-2004 was 24.00 lakh SC families against which the achievement was 25.60 lakh (107 % of the targets). During the year the performance of States of Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, H.P., Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, M.P., Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and Uttaranchal, and UTs of Chandigarh & Pondicherry was Very Good. The performance of two States of Maharashtra and Orissa was Good. The performance of remaining States/UTs was Poor. The details are given in *Annexure 12.1*.

12.3 **ST Families Assisted:-** The main thrust of 'Justice to Scheduled Tribes' is to improve the economic level of Scheduled Tribe families living below the poverty line. For this purpose, several economic development programmes have been undertaken in various sectors such as agriculture, rural development, horticulture, animal husbandry, sericulture, forestry, fishery, small business etc. under Tribal Sub-Plan Strategy, to enable them to improve their socio-economic conditions. These economic activities also promote, strengthen and support their livelihood. For the year 2003-2004, target of 11.17 lakh was fixed for the Scheduled Tribe families to be economically assisted under family-beneficiary oriented programmes and the achievement was 14.10 lakh ST families, (126 % of the targets). A statement showing States/UT-wise targets and achievements for the period under review is at *Annexure 12.2*. Out of 23 States/UTs performance of 15 States/UTs has been "Very Good". These are Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttaranchal, A&N Islands and Daman & Diu. The performance of the States of Tripura and Uttar Pradesh has been "Good". The Performance of remaining six States has been poor. The details are given in *Annexure 12.2*.

#### 12.4 Release of Central Share

12.4.1 **Special Central Assistance (SCA):-** Under the of Special Central Assistance(SCA), introduced in 1979-1980, 100% central assistance is extended to supplement the efforts of the States/UTs for ensuring rapid socio-economic development of the Scheduled Castes. It is provided as an additive to the Special Component Plan of the States/UTs for augmenting the efforts of the States/UTs for the economic development of Scheduled Castes. The objective of the SCA is to support SC families to enhance their productivity and income. It focuses on maximizing the returns from the assets held by the SCs by filling the critical gaps in the developmental needs. Special Central Assistance (SCA) is released to the States/UTs based on SC population of the States/UTs(40%), relative backwardness of the States/UTs (10%), percentage of SC families in the States/UTs covered by composite economic development programmes in the plans to enable them to cross the poverty line (25%) and the flow of funds to Special Component Plan utilised out of the Annual Plan as compared to the SC population percentage in the States/UTs(25%). The second installment of SCA is released after the unspent balance from the previous year and 75% of the first instalment has been utilised. A project based approach has been introduced during the period reported for utilization of SCA. The States/UTs are advised to submit viable project proposals for utilization of SCA grant with proper backward and forward linkages viz. training, skill development for self employment and arrangements for marketing of the produce. The financing of these projects are dovetailed by utilizing upto 50% unit cost limiting to Rs. 10,000 per family as SCA subsidy and the balance as loan from NSDFC/NSKFDC/Banks and beneficiary's own contribution. The States/UTs have started submitting project proposals from November 2000 and these are examined and cleared for implementation by the Ministry so that the SC families assisted through the Scheme generate enough income to cross the poverty line. During the year 2003-2004, Rs.3.84 crore has been released to the States/UTs.

12.4.2 **Release of Central Share for Tribal Sub-Plan:-** The Government of States and Union Territory Administrations have been formulating their annual Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) by quantifying funds from their plans for identified schemes /programmes for the benefit of Scheduled Tribes. As an addition to their Sub-Plan efforts the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment provides Special Central Assistance (SCA) to these States/UTs for development of Scheduled Tribes particularly for income generating family oriented schemes. The ST families are assisted through various Schemes implemented by Departments of Agriculture, Rural Development, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sericulture, Forestry, Small & Cottage Industries, etc. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs fixes the targets for 23 States/UTs having TSP in consultation with the concerned State Governments/UT Administration. The States/UTs send the monthly progress report to Ministry in respect of point 11(b) viz. ST Families Assisted of 20 Point Programme. The Government of India provides funds under Special Central Assistance (SCA) to TSP to 21 TSP States and 2 UTs. However from the year 2003-2004 the UTs will be getting the grant through the budget head of the Ministry of Home Affairs. The schemes of SCA to TSP was introduced during Fifth Five Year Plan. Under this scheme, assistance is given to the State Governments/UTs as an additive to State TSP. The SCA forms part of TSP towards the larger goal of enhancing pace of socio-economic development in most backward tribal areas. The objective of the scheme is: - (i) Socio-economic development and (ii) Protection of tribals from exploitation. The objective of scope of the SCA to TSP which was originally meant for filling up the critical gaps in the family based income generation activities of the TSP (till the end of 9<sup>th</sup> plan) have been expanded. The revised guidelines dated 2.5.2003 cover the employment cum income generation activities and the infrastructure incidental there to, not only family based but also community based run by Self-Help Groups.

- Major Schemes/Projects of infrastructure development are covered under State Plan/TSP. Only the areas where benefit from such plan (s) does not reach, the projects under SCA are taken for their development.

- 70 % of the SCA to be used for primary schemes supporting family/SHG community based employment and income generation in sectors such as Agriculture, Horticulture, Land Reforms, Waste Land Development, Animal Husbandry, Ecology and Environment, Development of Entrepreneurship in SSI etc. 30% for development for infrastructure incidental thereto.

- For the year April, 2003-March, 2004 Rs. 497 crore were released for the schemes to 21 TSP States/UTs. Budget allocation during the current year is also Rs.497 crore.

#### 12.5 Compliance with Law

12.5.1 The Protection of Civil Rights (PCR) Act, 1955 was enacted in furtherance of Article 17 of the Constitution by which untouchability was abolished and its practice in any form forbidden. Further, in order to check/ deter crimes against SCs and STs by persons belonging to other communities, the SCs& STs (Prevention of Atrocities) (POA) Act, 1989 was brought into force from 30<sup>th</sup> January, 1990. Comprehensive Rules were also notified under the Act in 1995 which lay down, in particular, enhanced norms for relief and rehabilitation. These statutes require the State Governments/UT Administrations to undertake various measures for preventing and penalising untouchability practices and atrocities. The Central Government is required to co-ordinate the measures taken by the States/UTs. Special Cells have been set up in the States/UTs of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Pondicherry towards implementation of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. For speedy trial of cases under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, 137 Exclusive Special Courts, have also been set up in the States of Andhra Pradesh (12), Gujarat (10), Karnataka (07), Madhya Pradesh (29), Rajasthan (17), Tamil Nadu (04), Bihar (11), Chhattisgarh (7) and Uttar Pradesh (40). Further all State Governments except Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland, which are predominantly tribal area States, have notified the existing Courts of Sessions as Special Courts for the trial of offences under the Act. The number of the cases registered during the last six years are given below:-

#### Cases Registered under PCR and POA Acts

Year	Number of cases registered under PCR Act	Number of cases registered under POA Act
(1)	(2)	(3)
1998	611	27,561
1999	526	26,285
2000	856	30,315
2001	454	30,022
2002	423	26,193

**Source:** Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

12.5.2 Over the years, the number of cases registered under the Protection of Civil Right (PCR) Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Provention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 have been declining, this indicates success of the legislative and economic measures taken by the Government for eliminating the practice of untouchability and perperation of atrocities. Exclusive Special Courts have been set up under SCs and STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 in 17 districts of Rajasthan, 29 districts of Madhya Pradesh, 7 districts of Karnataka, 12 districts of Andhra Pradesh, 10 districts of Gujarat, 2 district and 9 Division of Bihar, 7 districts of Chhattisgarh and 4 districts of Tamil Nadu. In other States/UTs, existing District and Session Courts have been specified as Special Courts. Special Public Prosecutors have also been designated in all the States/UTs except Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland where Special Courts have not been designated. The implementation of the Act 1989 was reviewed on 27.06.2003, in a meeting chaired by the Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, with heads of the Special Cell of 11 States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh which accounted for 96.79 % of total number of cases registered under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 during 2001. Subsequent to the meeting, the concerned State Governments were addressed on 07.10.2003 to take appropriate steps on the specific issues like functioning of PCR Cells and Special Police Stations, Designated Special Courts/ Exclusive Special Courts, Public Prosecutors, Awareness Generation and Help Line. During 2003-2004, the entire Central Assistance of Rs. 3637.88 lakhs was released under the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes & the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 against allocation of Rs. 3200 lakhs.

12.5.3 In pursuance of relevant provisions of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, Annual Report in respect of the Act, on the measures taken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and the Government of India itself is also placed on the Table of both Houses of Parliament. During the year 2003-2004 the Annual Report under each of the Act, for calendar year 2001 was laid on the Table of both Houses of Parliament.

#### 12.6 Improving Educational Standards

12.6.1 The rate of literacy among SCs and STs is very low i.e. 37.4% compared to general literacy rate 65.4%, More than three-quarter of SCs and STs are illiterate. Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Orissa are some of the states where literacy rate is very low in respect of SCs and STs. The drop out rate of SCs & STs is also higher compared to the general population. The factors responsible for low pace of educational development among them are inadequate enrolment, higher drop out, lack of objective, poor attendance in schools due to domestic/occupational compulsion and non-availability of remedial coachings. To improve the educational standards of this category of population the Govt. has started schemes like Hostels for SC Girls and Boys, Book Bank for SC / ST, Coaching and Allied Schemes, Special Educational Development Programmes for SC girls belonging to very low literacy levels and upgradation of Merit of SC/ST. Details of schemes being implemented are given below:-

(a) **Post-Matric Scholarships to Students Belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes:** The scheme provides 100% Central Assistance to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations for the expenditure on Scholarship over above and their respective committed liability. Sanction and disbursement of scholarship by the States and Union Territories involve a large number of students and several levels. Central assistance amounting Rs. 265 crore was released to States and UTs to provide scholarships to 22 lakh SC students during the year 2003-04. Similarly, during the same year an amount of Rs.66 crore has been released to various States and UTs benefiting 6 lakh Scheduled Tribe students.

(b) Pre-Matric Scholarships for the children of those engaged in unclean occupations:

The scheme provides for Central Assistance to the State Governments on a 50:50 basis (100% to the Union Territory Administrations) towards expenditure incurred over and above their respective committed liabilities, for scholarship to the children of scavengers and sweepers with traditional links with scavenging, flayers and tanners for pursuing recognised courses upto Matriculation in recognised institutions. During the year 2003-2004, Rs.14.60 crore were released and 6.58 lakh students were assisted.

(c) Hostels for Scheduled Castes Girls and Boys: The main objective of the Scheme of Girls Hostels for Scheduled Castes is to provide hostel facilities to Scheduled Caste girls studying in middle and higher secondary schools, colleges and Universities. Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided to the State Governments on 50:50 matching share basis (and 100% to UTs), in respect of NGOs 45% assistance is provided by State Govt. and 45% by Central Government and remaining 10% by NGOs for the construction of hostel buildings upto 100 construction of boundary walls, two room sets for hostel warden and one room set for chowkidar. The expenditure on maintenance of these hostels is borne by the State Governments. The Centrally Controlled Universities can receive financial assistance upto 90% under the Scheme and the remaining 10% is required to be contributed by them. Likewise, the other universities can also receive central assistance upto 45% and the remaining amount has to be provided by their respective States (45%) and themselves (10%). The existing scheme of girls hostels has been expanded to cover the construction of hostel buildings for the Scheduled Castes boys on the same pattern of construction of girls hostels. During 2003-2004, 339 new hostels (228 boys and 111 for girls) were made. The Central assistance released for girls hostel and boys hostels in the year 2003-04 was Rs. 20.50 crore and Rs. 35.25 crore respectively.

(d) Book Banks for SC/ST Students:- The scheme is intended to provide access to SC/ST students to the latest textbooks for Medical (including Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy), Veterinary, Engineering, Agriculture and Polytechnic, Law courses, Chartered Accountancy, M.B.A. and Bio-Science courses. Each set of books is shared by two students. The scheme is open to all those in the receipt of post-metric scholarships. The scheme also provides upto Rs. 2,000 for purchase of cupboards. The ceiling cost per set of textbooks varies from Rs. 2400/- to Rs. 7500/- depending on the course. Central assistance is provided to the State on 50:50 basis (100% to UTs). This scheme has been merged with the post-Matric scheme for SC students during the year 2003-04.

(e) Coaching and Allied Scheme for SC/ST Students: Under this scheme, free coaching facilities are provided to SC/ST students through Pre-examination Training Centers to enable them to compete successfully in the competitive examinations conducted by UPSC, SSC, Recruitment Boards, Public Sector Undertakings and other recruiting bodies with a view to improving the representation of SCs/STs in various service and posts under Central/State Governments and Public Undertakings etc. and also for securing admission in Medical, Engineering Colleges and Management Courses. The objective was to bring in uniformity in the pattern of assistance to the State Govts. Universities and Private Institutes by paying them on contractual per trainee basis. The State Governments, Universities and NGOs are implementing the scheme Institutions run by the State Governments are getting central assistance on 50:50 basis. Assistance to Universities and NGOs are on 90:10 basis. The coaching centers are entitled to financial assistance of Rs, 8,000/- per student per course for training in Group'A' services. Rs. 6,000/- per student per course for Group 'B' Services and Rs. 6,000/- per student per course for professional courses/other examinations. Besides this, students are also entitled to get monthly stipend. The duration of coaching may be from 3 to 6 months as per the requirement. The number of students benefitted under this scheme including other backward classes and minorities in the year 2003-2004 are 7030 and total release of the central share in Rs.3.98 crore. Free coaching facilities are also provided to ST students. During 2003-2004, certain modification was proposed to make the scheme more effective and result oriented. The expenditure finance committee could not meet to approve the suggested modification within the year 2003-04. Hence no funds could be utilized. The allocation under the scheme during 2003-04 was Rs. 1.50 crore.

(f) Projects of All-India or Inter-State Nature (Research and Training Scheme):- The financial assistance is provided to the Non-Governmental Organisation and Universities which have necessary expertise and are willing to undertake the research and evaluation studies and hold seminars, workshops and training programmes preferably on the socio-economic programmes undertaken by Government bodies for the development of Scheduled Castes. The Scheme has two components: (a) Research and evaluation studies in the field of Scheduled Castes Development and (b) Seminars, Workshops and Training Programmes connected with problem/solution related with Scheduled Castes. The funds are provided as 100% grants-in-aid under the scheme. The upper ceiling for the research and evaluation studies has been raised to Rs. 3 lakh with duration of 15 months. During the year 2003-2004, 9 old and 38 new studies were sanctioned and the fund released was Rs.50 lakh.

(g) **Special Educational Development Programme for Scheduled Caste Girls Belonging to Very Low Literacy Level:-** The scheme envisages establishment of residential schools for Scheduled Caste girls in low literacy pockets where the traditions and environment are not conducive to learning. The school established under the scheme supplement existing measures to impart and consolidate literacy and promote quality education of first generation learners among Scheduled Castes girls in areas of low literacy. The scheme envisages the establishment, through the respective Zila Parishads, of residential schools which provide a package of inputs for Scheduled Caste girls in class-I. The Zila Parishads may run the schools themselves or through credible NGOs of proven integrity, competence and experience. However, the Zila Parishads are fully responsible and accountable for the effective implementation of the Scheme. Zila Parishads which are willing and capable of implementing the Scheme and accept the regulations governing the Scheme, are identified by the concerned State Governments and their case recommended to the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. This scheme has been closed during the year 2001-2002.

(h) **Upgradation of Merit of SC/ST Students:** The scheme was started in 1987-88 by the Department of Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development (subsequently transferred to Ministry of Welfare in the middle of 1993-94) with the objective of helping selected SC/ST students by providing them extra coaching and facilitating their admission to professional courses such as Medical and Engineering etc. where entry is based on competitive examinations. Under the scheme, it was proposed to give central assistance of Rs. 15,000/- per student basis. A total of 1045 awards were provided with each state having a minimum of 5 awards. The States could choose (i) their own scholars and (ii) the proportion between SCs/STs students depending on the strength of the illiterate population of SCs/STs. Disabled students were given special allowances so that the scheme was also beneficial to them. During the year 2003-04, the release of centre share was Rs.1.85 crore and the number of SC students benefitted under the scheme were 1378.

(i) National Overseas Scholarship for SC & ST Students for Higher Studies :- The scheme intends to provide financial assistance to meritorious students belonging to SC, ST etc.for pursuing Masters Degree, Ph.D and Post Doctoral courses abroad in the specified fields of Engineering, Science and Technology only 20 Scholarships per year are offered in the following manner: Scheduled Castes-17, Denotified Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes-2, Landless Agricultural Labourers and Traditional Artisans-1. The Scheme has been revived for the period 2000-2001 to 2006-2007, with modifications. The modified scheme provides enhanced maintenance allowance of US \$ 8,200/- per annum. The Contingency Allowances for books, essential apparatus, study tour charges, typing and binding of thesis etc.has also been raised to US \$ 550/- per annum. The modified scheme also provides reimbursement of actual visa fees in Indian rupees. The scheme also provides Air Passage by economy class by shortest route both ways by arrangement with the national carrier, poll tax, equipment allowance and incidental journey expenses, actual fees charged by institution and the medical insurance premium. The awardees are also permitted to supplement their prescribed allowance by undertaking research/ teaching assistantship upto US \$2400/- per annum and beyond these ceilings, the maintenance allowance will be proportionately reduced. The financial assistance under the scheme is available to the students sent abroad, for the maximum period of 4 years for Ph.D. research, for 3 years for Master's Programme and for 1½ year for Post Doctoral research. The amount released during the year 2003-2004 was Rs.70 lakh.

#### 12.7 Rehabilitation of Safai Karamcharis

12.7.1 The objective of the *National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and Their Dependents* (NSLRS) is to liberate them from the hereditary and in-human occupation of manually removing night soil and filth and to provide for and engage them in alternate and dignified occupations. The Government of India had launched the Scheme in March, 1992, after splitting the erstwhile scheme of conversion of dry latrines and rehabilitation of liberated scavengers which was started in 1980-81. The conversion part of the Scheme has since been entrusted to the Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment. Implementation of the Scheme in most of the States has been very tardy. As against the 6.76 lakh of scavengers identified as per the present followed definition of scavengers, the total number of scavengers trained and rehabilitated has been only about 1.52 lakh and 3.85 lakh, respectively. This indicates that the work of rehabilitation has not been completed so far. Even the survey is yet to be completed in a few states and the results of re-survey undertaken by some States are awaited. Ending the obnoxious practice of manual removal of night soil and filth is a national commitment; all-out efforts are required to complete this task at the earliest.

12.7.2 Government intends to take all possible steps to liberate the scavengers. The Nodal Ministry took an initiative in the last quarter of the year 1999-2000 and suggested States/UTs to implement the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents (NSLRS) through setting up of Sanitary Marts (A Sanitary Mart is a place where sanitary needs of the common man could be met. It serves both as a shop and a service centre) by forming cooperative of about 20-25 scavengers. The objective of setting up of Sanitary Marts under NSLRS is not only to wean the scavengers away from their existing profession and provide them an alternative sustainable employment in production and sale of sanitary items, but also to generate demand for wet toilets, leading to conversion of dry latrines in small towns which they otherwise would be servicing as scavengers. The scheme has been transferred to the Department of Urban Employment and Family Alleviation from August 2003 as per direction of committee of Secretaries in its meeting held on 14.4.2003.

#### 12.8 Mainstreaming the SCs and STs in the Community:-

12.8.1 Various schemes have been undertaken for the socio-economic development of SCs and STs with the main objective of integrating them with the whole community. The problem is more acute with the tribal population who are generally isolated in the far-flung places and feel out of touch when not in their home environment. The idea for their integration with the community is to bring them up with the national standards in quality of living standards.

12.8.2 In the formulation and implementation of programme for the welfare and development of STs, care is taken to see that such programme do not lead to segregation of these communities from the rest of the society. In addition to a number of programmes taken up by the State Governments, the schemes like Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan, Girls Hostel, Boys Hostel, Ashram Hostel, Vocational Training in Tribal Areas, Education Complex for ST Girls in Low Literacy pockets for development of literacy of girls in tribal areas, grants in aid to voluntary organisation engaged in the welfare of STs, setting up of Tribal Research Institutes, doctoral and post doctoral fellowship, Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) are in operation. In fact the ultimate aim of these development programmes for STs is to open the avenues for these people to enter into all fields of activities and to enable them to compete with others on equal terms.

12.8.3 Ambedkar Foundation has been set up to manage, long terms schemes for propagation of ideas of Baba Saheb Dr.B.R.Ambedkar for the welfare of the masses. The work of publication of Baba Seheb's writing and speeches in Indian languages is under progress. Dr. Ambedkar Overseas Fellowship is being restructured and Dr.B.R. Ambedkar National Award for social understanding and upliftment of weaker sections is being presented. The funds required for these three schemes are being provided by the Government of India.

12.8.4 The Scheduled Castes Development Corporation (SCDC), National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance & Development Corporation (NSDFC), National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) are also functioning in States and UTs. SCDCs mobilise funds for SCs living below the poverty line and they act as guaranters, promoters and catalysts for generating credit from financial institutions and providing missing inputs by way of margin money loans and subsidy to the target groups. NSDFCs do also look after the special developmental and financial needs of the SCs & STs, over and above the credit available through priority sector lending of banks and others institutions. It provides financial assistance at concessional rates for all viable economic activities such as Irrigation, Horticulture, Poultry, Dairy, and fabrication shops, Footwear Making, Garment Manufacturing, Handlooms Handicrafts, Small Hotels, Purchase of Goods and Passengers Vehicles etc. NSDFC has introduced micro credit finance scheme under which maximum loan amount of Rs.10,000 per beneficiary will be made available through SCA/ Self-Help Groups. It also provides financial assistance at concessional rates for income generating activities and training in skill development to SCs and STs whose annual income is below half the poverty line income criterion. NSDFC is extending concessional financial assistance through the state Channelizing Agencies namely State Scheduled Castes Finance & Development Corporation (SSCFDC). The state Agencies extend loans to beneficiaries @ 7 % interest p.a. upto Rs. 5.00 lakh and @ 9% interest for loans exceeding Rs. 5.00 lakh. NSDFC provides upto 90% of the project cost & balance 10% is funded by the State Agencies and the beneficiaries. Smaller loans are funded on 100 % basis without insisting on beneficiary contribution. During 2003-2004 a provision of Rs. 1510 lakh has been kept under the scheme against which a sum of Rs. 1010 lakh has been released to NSDFC. NSKFDC is to promote economic development/self-employment for the economic rehabilitation of Safai Karamcharis besides providing training in technical and entrepreneurial skills and extending loans to students from Safai Karamchari Community for pursuing higher education. NSKFDC has introduced micro credit schemes under which, a maximum of Rs. 10,000/- as loan per beneficiary will be made available repeatedly upon repayment, through SCAs/NGOs that can form self-help groups of the beneficiaries. Interest on the loan for the beneficiaries will be 6% of which 3% is payable by SCAs/NGOs to NSKFDC retaining the balance 3% for meeting the administrative costs. The repayment period is 18 to 36 months with a moratorium of 6 months. During the year, 2003-2004, The Government of India has released the entire amount of Rs. 1000 lakh as equity share.