

MINUTES OF STATE LEVEL REVIEW HELD ON 16-10-2015 AT BANGALORE BY NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED CASTES WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

Lists of participants of the Meeting with Public Representative, Meeting with the Staff Associations and NGOs and the Meeting with the State Government Officers are enclosed at Annexure I, II and III respectively.

The National Commission for Scheduled Castes led by Shri P L Punia, Hon'ble Chairman, along with Dr Raj Kumar Verka, Hon'ble Vice Chairman, Smt PM Kamamma, Hon'ble Member and Dr Vinod Aggarwal Secretary held a review meeting on 16/10/2015 with DGP and other senior officer of the Government of Karnataka. The meeting started with welcome address by Secretary, Social Welfare Department.

The Chairman, NCSC in his opening remarks expressed the displeasure of the Commission on the absence of the Chief Secretary of the State from such an important meeting. The Chairman informed the participants that the Commission is constituted under Article 338 of the Constitution of India and is mandated under the same article to review and monitor the implementation of the constitution safeguards provided to the members of the Scheduled Castes. The objective of such review meetings is not fault finding with the working of the State Governments but to share good practices being adopted by other State Governments and emphasized on the other Governments to adopt those good practices in the welfare and up-liftment of the Scheduled Castes. The Chairman also recalled that the Commission had conducted Review of the State in 2011.

The Chairman informed the participants that as a practice the Commission meets the public representative, staff associations and NGOs from the concerned State Government to obtain feedback on the welfare schemes run by the State Government and any draw backs in their implementation. Such meetings were held on 15.10.2015 wherein the issues such as amendment to

section 7(D) of SCP /TSP Act, the problems of Safai Karmacharies in the Rural areas, restriction on temple entry for SCs, starting of helpline, strengthening of CRE-Cell, construction of Pucca Houses for Houseless SCs, identifying and rehabilitation of the manual scavengers, issue related to false Caste Certificates, cases pending with District Level Caste Verification Committee, identification and filling up Backlog vacancies etc. were raised. Hon'ble Chairman desired that the concerned Departments should take urgent action on these issues.

The Chairman, while appreciating some good welfare schemes being run by the Government, pointed out that Karnataka is among Top-10 states with regard to the Atrocities committed on SCs.

The Chairman expressed his happiness that in Karnataka the Vigilance Committee Meetings and the awareness Programmes are held regularly and congratulated Government of Karnataka for enacting the SCP/TSP Act 2013 and allocating 17.15% of the Plan Budget for SCSP. The Commission observed that while the allocation under SCSP was to be used only for the schemes which are exclusively benefitting the SCs and there shall not be any allocation to general schemes under SCSP however, from the information supplied by the State only 3 percent is earmarked for exclusive schemes. At this the Consultant Dr E Venkatiah intervened and said that this issue had been addressed in the Chief Minister's meeting and also stated that housing and schemes of Dr Ambedkar SC/ST Corporation are all exclusive schemes. The State Government will provide details of SC Specific Schemes alongwith objective and other details and the details of the beneficiaries during the last 3 years.

The Chairman expressed satisfaction over the number of hostels in Karnataka especially those for girls. Regarding literacy he observed that there is a gap of 10% between the general literacy rate and the SC literacy rate. Steps are to be taken to bridge this gap.

Assistant Commissioner and the Development Commissioner replied that all the schemes under SCSP are scrutinized by the Nodal Agency and the State Council. The Adviser to the Nodal Agency brought to the Notice of the Commission that, only 5% of the total allocation under SCSP is being used for non-divisible infrastructure works.

Further the Secretary, SWD stated that, GOK has announced construction of one lakh houses for Rural SCs and 50000 Urban SCs at a unit cost of 1.50 lakhs and Rs. 1.80 lakhs respectively and the entire amount is provided on subsidy. He also added that it is also announced in the Budget to distribute 50000 house sites to SCs both in Rural and Urban areas.

Afterwards the Secretary, Social Welfare Department explained various schemes implemented by the Social Welfare Department. The Hon'ble Member Smt. P M Kamamma raised the issue of SC Caste Certificate to the off springs of Inter-caste Married Couples. It was clarified that the caste of the children shall be governed by the caste of the Father. The Secretary further explained that:

- a) the incentive to Inter-caste Marriage has been enhanced to Rs 3.00 lakhs in case of SC women and Rs. 2.00 lakhs in case of SC men.
- b)The construction of Dr: B.R. Ambedkar Bhavan and Jagajeevan Ram Bhavans at the District, Taluka, Hobli and Village levels were also explained by Secretary SWD, GOK .Various schemes for economic development of SCs are implemented by the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Corporation such as Land Purchase Scheme, Ganga Kalyana, Loans etc.,
- c)The difficulties in implementing Land Purchase Scheme and Gangakalyana Scheme.
- d)Thanda Development Corporation is implementing schemes for the Welfare of Banjara Community and also to preserve their culture.
- e) It was brought to the notice of the Commission that, 274 Residential Schools are there for SC children in Karnataka. Each school complex is constructed at

the cost of Rs. 10 to 15 crores. All these schools are governed by Karnataka Residential Education Institution Society.

f) The Foreign Studies Scholarships to SC students. 100% assistance is given to students whose Annual Income is below Rs. 6.00 lakhs and 50% assistance to those with income below Rs. 15.00 lakhs.

g) Rs. 1.00 lakh assistance is also given to the students to get admission in IITs/IIMs/NITs/IISCs etc.,

h) All Scholarships are being given through online and the amount directly goes to the Bank Account to the Students.

i) Incentive of Rs. 15,000/- is given to the Class-X students who score more than 75% and Rs. 7,000/- to those who score more than 60%.

j) In Residential Schools Class-X result is 95% and in Hostels it is 82%. Special tuitions are arranged for Hostel students.

k) Currently, the demand for Pre-matric hostels is coming down, due to various reasons. In many cases the Pre-matric hostels have been converted into Post-matric Hostels.

l) As many as 356 hostels are functioning in rented buildings. There is enough grants in the Department for the constructions of buildings and repairs of the buildings.

m) So far Rs.369.20 crores has been disbursed to SC entrepreneurs through KSFC at an interest rate of 4%. Under this scheme loan is provided up to Rs. 5.00 crores and the repayment period is 8 years.

n) The issue of collateral security while sanctioning loan by Banks is discussed at length.

o) Regularizing the SC Teachers in schools run by the Education Department.

p) Survey and rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers in the Urban Areas.

q) Survey and rehabilitation of Safai Karmacharies in the Rural Areas. The Commission expressed its displeasure on Non-availability on information on Rural Safai Karmacharies with R DPR Department. The Commission directed to conduct survey and to prepare the accurate data.

r) The allowance given to the cleaning staff in the hostels shall be enhanced.

s) The Atrocity cases are increasing in the State.

t) There are difficulties in lodging FIRs.

u) The conviction rate is low; steps should be taken to improve this.

Chairman, NCSC pointed out that only 8 Districts have Special Courts, Special Courts should be established in all 30 Districts.

There are complaints about, the SCs not being allowed entry to Temples; action should be taken against this. The SCs are also facing discrimination at the hotels, Saloons, etc., this should be tackled.

Regarding the functioning of CRE Cell it was pointed out that the Police Department is visiting the Colonies and also celebrating Dalit Day in all Police Offices in every month to address the Grievances of SCs. The ADGP, DCRE explained the functioning of DCRE at the State and District Level, also the steps taken against Atrocities, False Caste Certificates, Denial of Temple entry etc., the tradition of Devadasi and their rehabilitation is also discussed.

The Department of High Education was instructed to fill up the Backlog vacancies in the College and the Universities. The atrocity committed on the Villages in Mandya, the DG ensured all the possible action.

The State Government will furnish an ATR to the Commission on all these issues within two months.

The Meeting concluded with the vote of thanks to the chair.
