

CHAPTER 26

WELFARE OF BACKWARD CLASSES, SCHEDULED CASTES/SCHEDULED TRIBES, AND SOCIAL WELFARE

26.1 Social Welfare Department in Rajasthan has mainly concentrated its activities / programmes towards the educational, economic and social development of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The programmes of the Social Welfare Department are grouped in two major sectors, which are even enumerated as under :

- Welfare of Backward Classes : It includes Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Denotified Tribes, Nomadic Tribes and Other Backward Classes.
- Social Welfare Sector : It includes programmes for destitute neglected and other deprived groups of children and women and the welfare of handicapped etc.

26.2 The programmes for these groups are mainly divided in 4 broad categories :

- Educational Development :
 - Hostels
 - Scholarships
 - Book Bank Scheme
 - Coaching and Allied Schemes (Pre-Examination Training Centres)
 - Residential Schools
- Economic Development :
 - Special Component Plan for SC
 - Economic upliftment of SC, ST, Disabled, Scavengers through Rajasthan SC/ST Finance and Development Co-operative Corporation; Economic upliftment of OBCs through Rajasthan OBC Finance and Development Co-operative Corporation & of Minorities through Rajasthan Minorities Finance & Development Co-operative Corporation.
- Social Development :
 - Welfare of Disabled (Handicapped)
 - Implementation of J.J. Act
- Social Security :
 - Pension to Aged and Infirms
 - Protection of Civil Rights and Prevention of Atrocities

26.3 The highlights and the achievements of Social Welfare Department made during the IX Five Year Plan – both Financial and Physical and the proposals for the X Five Year Plan and that of the year 2002-03 are as under :

Ninth Five Year Plan

26.4 The State of Rajasthan introduced many new programmes during the IX Five Year Plan for the weaker-sections and implemented various educational, social and economic activities for the welfare of the down-trodden communities. The expenditure incurred during IX Five Year Plan period on social welfare activities was to the tune of Rs.147.45 crores as compared to the VIII Five Year Plan period

which was Rs.42.91 crores. This shows an increase of 343% over the VIII Plan period.

26.5 Under the Scheme of scholarship for SCs and STs for various categories, the total number of beneficiaries works out to 4.70 lacs. The total number of Hostels functioning in the State are 600 out of which 526 are being run by the Govt. and 74 are aided hostels. These institutions are benefiting around 25227 students annually. The mess allowance has also been enhanced from Rs.350.00 per months to Rs.675 p.m. per student.

26.6 Under infrastructure development programme, 30887 SC dominated villages and basties were covered under "Safe Drinking Water Schemes" and 18919 Harijan Basties have so far been electrified. Concerted efforts have also been made by the Department under Handicapped Welfare programme to help the needy persons. During the VIII Five Year Plan period 3171 handicapped persons were benefited where as 36195 persons during the IX Plan period by way of providing prosthetic aids and appliances. An amount of Rs.372.80 lacs has been spent during IX Five Year Plan. Keeping in view the price hike of aids and appliances the amount of aids and appliances has also been increased from Rs.1500 to Rs.2500 per head.

26.7 Efforts have been made for the identification of handicapped persons and issue of identity cards. Polio Correctionms camps are being organised regularly. Efforts are under process for equipping all the Medical Colleges for performing regular Polio Correction Operations. Handicapped persons have been provided Kiosks without any charges so that they can be self reliant for their own livelihood. A sum of Rs.894.25 lacs have been spent during the IX Plan for these noble causes of Disabled persons.

Tenth Five Year Plan

26.8 The State Government is making all efforts for the upliftment of weaker sections of the society. An outlay of Rs.167.02 crores has been proposed for the X Five Year Plan period. The main salient features of the X Five Year Plan are as under :

Pre Matric Scholarships to OBC

26.9 During X Five Year Plan an amount of Rs.500.00 lacs has been proposed and Rs.,100.00 lacs during the year 2002-03 for providing Pre Matric Scholarshiop to OBC students. It is expected that 125000 students would be benefited during the X Five Year Plan period and during 2002-03, 25000 students.

Construction of Girls Hostel Buildings

26.10 An amount of Rs. 50.00 lacs has been proposed for construction of 4 hostels for SC & ST girls during X Five Year Plan period.

Construction of Boys Hostel Buildings

26.11 Rs.830.58 lacs have been proposed for construction of Boys Hostels for weaker and down trodden sections of the society. For the year 2002-03 an amount of Rs. 378.99 lacs has been propoed. 74 Hostels are proposed to be constructed in phased manner during the X Plan period.

Residential School Operation

26.12 10 Residential Schools are to be constructed with German Aid. Four such Residential Schools (Kota, Jalore, Doongarpur and Banswara) will be ready by June, 2002 and will start functioning w.e.f. July, 2002. A provision of Rs.4500.00 lakhs has been proposed for X Plan period. Out of this a sum of Rs.1350.00 lacs is proposed to be spent during the year 2002-03.

P.E.T.C. (Pre-Examination Training Centres)

26.13 This scheme has been introduced to prepare the students to participate in the competitive examination with full preparation. This scheme is meant for weaker sections of the society. To achieve this objective, Rs.250 lacs have been proposed during X Plan period and an amount of Rs.50 lacs are being proposed for the year 2002-03. In all 37 centres would run.

Assistance for Prosthetic Aids

26.14 To help the handicapped persons by making available prosthetic aids. An amount of Rs. 250 lacs proposed during the X Plan period and 125000 persons would be benefitted. An amount of Rs.50 lacs are proposed for 2002-03 to benefit 2500 persons.

Raj.OBC & Minorities Finance & Dev. Co-op. Corporation

26.15 The State Government has created two new Corporations for the economic upliftment of Minorities and Other Backward Castes of the State. These corporations will get the loan funds from the National Corporation for distributing loans, but the establishment expenditure will be borne by the State Government, under Non-Plan. Besides this a sum of Rs. 25.00 lacs has been proposed for the paid-up share capital of each Corporation and a sum of Rs.50.00 lacs will be required for both the Corporations during X Five Year Plan period. Similarly, funds for Margin Money loans have also been proposed for both the corporations for which a sum of Rs. 50.00 lacs will be provided.

ITI facilities for Handicapped persons

26.16 An amount of Rs.50.00 lacs has been proposed during Tenth Five Year Plan period for this purpose and Rs.5.00 lacs during the year 2002-03.

Priorities of Annual Plan 2002-03

26.17 During the year 2002-03 many new programmes for the development of the weaker section of the society are being introduced which includes construction, opening of new ITI for handicapped; free journey facility to the mentally retarded and handicapped persons in the State Road Transport Buses and 50% concession to his attendant; construction and opening of New Residential Schools; effect functioning of SC/ST Commission, scholarships and economic upliftment of OBC.

26.18 The priorities of the Government are focussed towards social economic and educational development of the weaker sections of the society.

26.19 Following programmes will be taken up on priority during the year 2002-03 :

- A composite identification card for the handicapped persons.

- It has been decided to establish 10 residential schools in phases under externally aided project. It would further facilitate to provide qualitative education to the students of weaker section and such residential schools are proposed to be commissioned during 2002-03.
- It has been decided to extent travel concession in State Government Buses to deaf and mute & to mentally retarded persons. Escort would be allowed 50% concession accompanying the mentally retarded persons.
- The State Govt. will open 4 New District Rehabilitation centres to provide composite and integrated services to handicapped.
- Special employment initiatives in the form of operation of job oriented courses will be taken up to provide self employment to handicapped persons. A target of 20 persons has been fixed for the year 2002-03.
- Polio Operation Camps will be organized at different places.
- Pre metric scholarships will be introduced for the students of Other Backward Castes.