

CHAPTER 18

WELFARE OF SC/ST/OBC

1. As per the 2001 Census, the total population of Delhi is 1,37,82,976 persons. The Data on Scheduled Castes population has not yet been released by the Registrar General of India. According to the 1991 Census, the Scheduled Castes (SC) population of Delhi was 17.95 lakh, which was 19.05% of Delhi's total population of 94.21 lakh. At the national level, the SC population comprises 16.48% of the total population (Table 18.1). According to census records, there is no Scheduled Tribe (ST) population in Delhi, as none of the tribes are notified as Scheduled Tribes in the city. So far, the Delhi Backward Classes (DBC) Commission of Delhi has notified 54 castes as Other Backward Classes (OBC) in Delhi, but no authentic estimate is available regarding the OBC population in Delhi.
2. The SC population of Delhi is predominantly urban and only 11.57% lives in the rural areas. This coincides with the rural-urban population ratio of Delhi. While the rural SC population as a percentage of the total rural population of Delhi in 1991 was 21.89%, the urban SC population as a percentage of the total urban population of Delhi was 18.73%. The rural-urban SC population vis-à-vis the total population of Delhi between 1951 and 1991 is given in Table 18.2 and the decennial growth rate of Delhi's population vis-à-vis the SC population from 1961 to 1991 is given in Table 18.3. The growth rate of Delhi's population remained between 51% and 53% during 1961-91 while the growth rate of the SC population in Delhi during this period was between 60% and 86%.
3. The literacy rate of the SC population vis-à-vis the Delhi literacy rate is shown in Table 18.4. The data reveal that the literacy rate of the SC population has steadily increased from 20.86% in 1961 to 57.60% in 1991. Although the SC literacy rate in 1991 was below Delhi's literacy rate of 75.29%, it remains above the national literacy rate of 52.11%.
4. The Delhi workforce of 29.68 lakh people in 1991 included 5.22 lakh SC persons, which is 17.57% of the total work force. In Delhi, 31.51% of the population is employed, of the SC population, of 17.95 lakh, 29% is employed. Table 18.5 shows the sectoral distribution of SC workers. According to the 1991 census, 60% were engaged in the tertiary sector, 37% in the secondary sector and only 3% in the primary sector.

Educational Programmes

5. Various educational schemes have been introduced for the benefit of SC/ST students in Delhi. 295 medical and engineering students studying in professional colleges benefitted through the Book Bank Scheme in 1999-2000. Hostel facilities were also given to 115 boys and 37 girls during 2000-2001 and 98 boys and 37 girls upto December, 2001 in the current Annual Plan 2001-02. To assess the impact of the implementation of schemes like "Free Supply of Books and Stationery to SC/ST students, Merit Scholarship to Colleges / Professional Institutions Students belonging to SC/ST", a study has been entrusted to Delhi School of Social Work, Delhi University. During 2001-02, Rs. 200.00 lakh has been released to the Directorate of Education for Free Supply of Books and Stationery to 44,500 SC students, Rs. 90.00 lakhs has been released to the Directorate of Education under different Scholarship Schemes for granting Scholarship to 6250 SC/ST/OBC students.
6. The Department for the Welfare of SC/ST/OBC commenced pre-examination Coaching for SC / ST candidates for entrance test for admission to the medical and engineering colleges / institutions. Pre-examination coaching is also imparted for appearing in the various competitive examinations conducted by Staff Selection Board, UPSC, etc to 470 Scheduled Castes candidates in 2001.

Economic Upliftment Programmes

7. The Delhi Scheduled Caste Financial and Development Corporation (DSCFDC) was set up to promote self-employment opportunities for the SC population. During the financial year 2000-01 under the general loan scheme (up to Rs. 35,000/- for self employment), the Corporation advanced margin money loan and subsidies to 280 Scheduled Castes persons and loans through various nationalised banks. 12 beneficiaries were also provided auto rickshaws. During 2000-01 interest free loans were given to 16 students for getting higher technical education and in the current Annual Plan 2001-02 up to December, 2001, 19 students benefitted. The Corporation has granted composite loan up to Rs. 50,000 per beneficiary, to 23 beneficiaries during the year 2000-01 without involving banks. In the current financial year, loans amounting to Rs. 98.47 lakh have been disbursed to 221 applicants under composite loan up to January, 2002. Now the scope of the Corporation has been extended to promote self employment opportunities for OBC and minorities also and it has been declared the state channelising agency for receiving funds from the National Financial & Development Corporations for these categories at the Central level.
8. To improve the living conditions of people living in Scheduled Castes Basties, improvement work such as providing kharnja, construction of road, side drains etc., are being carried out. During the year 2000-01 improvement works have been carried out in 52 SC Basties at a cost of Rs. 4.37 crore. In the current Annual Plan 2001-02, Rs. 12.00 crore has been provided for carried out improvement works and providing electricity and water facilities in SC Basties.

Rehabilitation Programmes

9. According to a survey conducted by the Delhi School of Social Work in 1997, there were about 1.39 lakh dry latrines in Delhi with 7,961 scavengers engaged in the profession. Under the scheme, Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers, 151 scavengers were given financial assistance for self-employment during 2000-01. However from 1997-98 to 2000-01, about 5206 persons have been given financial assistance and 671 given training.

General Welfare Programmes

10. There are several other schemes for the benefit of the SC / ST/OBC/Economically weaker section of population. Poor widows are given a financial grant of Rs. 10,000 for their daughter's marriages. Financial assistance was provided to 537 widows for marriage of their daughters during 2000-01 and to 376 widows upto December, 2001 in the current financial year. Financial assistance was also given to 22 orphan girls for their marriage during the year 2000-01 and to 7 orphan girls upto December, 2001 in the current financial year. Under the scheme, financial assistance to lactating and nourishing mothers of weaker section of SC/ST, 3000 women were benefitted during the year 2000-01. Financial assistance at the rate of Rs. 10,000/- was provided to 4 SC persons for construction of their Houses.

The Govt. of Delhi has given Dr. Ambedkar Ratan Award for the years 1999-2000 and 2000-01 to three eminent organizations / persons of Delhi who had done exemplary work for socio-economic development of SC people of Delhi.

A Commission known as the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe Commission is being constituted to look into the grievances of SC/ST people of Delhi.