

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5977
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2010
POLICY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF OBCS
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Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some of the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) communities including those living in rural areas who depend upon the various traditional occupations/artisans are languishing in the worst forms of social and economic backwardness;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to elevate their standard of living;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to frame National policy for the development and modernisation of traditional occupations/artisans for the benefit of the said communities; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON)

(a) to (e): The Government is implementing various schemes for educational and socio-economic empowerment of persons belonging to other backward classes.

The National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) under this Ministry has been entrusted with the job of providing financial assistance to the members of Backward Classes including those living in rural areas and depending upon traditional occupation/artisans. The schemes of the Corporation have been formulated to assist poorer section of the Backward Classes living below double the poverty line. The Schemes implemented by NBCFDC aim at promoting self-employment ventures, technical education or training at graduate and higher level and to assist in the upgradation of technical and entrepreneurial skills of eligible backward classes for proper and efficient management of production units. The Government has also launched the Scheme for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) for development of around 100 clusters from Khadi, village and coir sectors. The Scheme envisages need based assistance for replacement of production equipment, setting up of common facility centres (CFC), product development, quality improvement, improved marketing, training and capacity building, etc.

The Government is also implementing the following schemes for the economical upliftment of Handicraft artisans including those artisans belonging to OBC category:-

- (i) Babasaheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikar Yojana (AHVY)
- (ii) Marketing Support and Services Scheme;
- (iii) Design and Technology Upgradation;
- (iv) Research and Development;
- (v) Human Resource Development and Handicrafts Artisans Comprehensive Welfare Scheme.