

M/O RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Annexure - II

Report of National Human Rights Commission on Prevention of Atrocities against Scheduled Castes — recommendations concerning Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Rural Development.

S.N.	Recommendation No.	Recommendations	Action Taken
1	18	<p>Self-help groups of SC women should be formed in each village with sizeable SC population, in atrocities prone areas to start with and to other areas subsequently. These groups, apart from being mobilized for activities relating to thrift, credit and development may also be given elementary legal training along with sessions on confidence building which equips them with knowledge and strength to take up cases of violence and discriminations against SC women with Police/Civil functionaries and provide emotional support to the victims in situations of crisis. At least one or two women in each group may be specifically trained to draft complaints on behalf of the victims and dispatch them to competent authorities and Human Right organizations/activists, if any. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment may include this measure as a part of activities for administration of SCs/STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.</p>	<p>In order to ensure that no poor family is left out, National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) (now renamed as Aajeevika) would use differential strategies for social inclusion/mobilization of all identified BPL households into functionally effective and self-managed institutions, with particular focus on more vulnerable sections like scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, particularly vulnerable tribal groups, single women and women headed households, disabled, landless, migrant labor, isolated communities and communities living in disturbed areas. Building and sustaining institutions of the poor at various levels would empower rural women for collective action, greater solidarity, bargaining power, economies of scale and larger linkages.</p> <p>In Andhra Pradesh, an initiative has been taken to create legal Community Resource Persons (CRPs), i.e, some educated SHG members from the community have been give legal training in relevant areas in order to equip them with knowledge and strength to take up cases of violence and discriminations against women. Once strong institutions of the poor are created in the states, NRLM/Aajeevika will replicate such strategies.</p>

2	47	<p>Village and Block level Panchayata should be actively involved in programmes relating to elimination of untouchability, protection of SCs against atrocities and removal of discrimination against them, implementation of labour laws and extension of development programmes for SCs, etc. Intensive training may be provided to the elected members for this purpose. Elected members belonging to SCs should be specifically oriented to provide emotional support and counseling to victims of atrocities and for advocacy of their problems. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment may take up the matter with the Ministry of Rural Development to start this work at the earliest. Until such a Programme is finalized Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment could start on an experimental basis training of elected SC members of Panchayat in some atrocities prone areas.</p>	<p>The Department of Rural Development forwarded a copy of the recommendations of Report of National Human Rights Commission on Prevention of Atrocities against Scheduled Castes to National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad and all State Institutes of Rural Development for providing training to elected representatives of Panchayat on the issue of protection of SCs against atrocities and removal of discrimination against them.</p>
3	66	<p>States may identify endemic areas which supply child labour from SC families. These areas are also likely to have high incidence of bonded labour system and would also be pushing a large number of unorganized labour outside the State on migration. Such pockets would most certainly have low wage levels. As these features are linked to high levels of poverty and exploitation, these areas are most likely to be prone to higher incidence of violence against SCs as well. An integrated programme of enforcement of labour laws, employment generation and poverty alleviation may be drawn up for such areas in which Village & Block Panchayats may be actively involved. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment may liaise with Ministry of RD and State Governments in preparation of Projects for such and integrated programme and allocation of funds for them. It should monitor the impact of these measures on the incidence of violence against SCs.</p>	<p>NRLM/Aajeevika will aim at universal social mobilization and bringing all rural BPL families under the SHG network. It will support them in enhancing their incomes through various livelihood activities and skill building. Focus will be on the poorest of the poor and the vulnerable sections of the society. The Central allocation, under NRLM/Aajeevika, earmarked for the States is to be distributed in relation to the incidence of poverty in the States.</p> <p>Once the hierarchy of people's institutions have been created and their capacities built, social issues may also be tackled in convergence with various social sector programmes.</p>
4	69	<p>Employment generation programmes may be specifically concentrated in low wage pockets of rural labour so as to strengthen their bargaining position in the struggle for enforcement of minimum wages and equal remuneration among male and female workers. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment may identify such pockets in rural areas where</p>	<p>Under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), State Governments are required to provide not less than 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household for doing manual work, if demanded, at any time of the</p>

		SC predominate as agricultural labourers and liaise with the Ministry of RD in operationalising this suggestion.	year. Ministry of Rural Development has advised all State Governments to ensure that adequate number of MGNREGA works is kept open so that employment opportunities are available to rural labour as and when demanded by them. The act provides for equal wage paid to male and female works and there is no gender based discrimination in the scheduled of rate.
5	75	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in consultation with Ministry of Rural Development should launch a programme to organize self-help groups in each village among the SCs (if necessary for men & women separately) for thrift and credit and link them with existing financial institutions, both commercial and cooperative, for improving the availability of credit for consumption purposes which no financial institution at present is catering to.	In order to ensure that no poor family is left out, NRLM/Aajeevika would use differential strategies for social inclusion/mobilization of all identified BPL households into functionally effective and self-managed institutions, with particular focus on more vulnerable sections like scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, particularly vulnerable tribal groups, single women and women headed households, disabled, landless, migrant labour, isolated communities and communities living in disturbed areas. NRLM/Aajeevika would also work towards achieving universal financial inclusion, beyond basic banking services to all the poor households, SHGs and their federations.
6	75.1	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment may launch or persuade Ministry of Rural Development to introduce a scheme for establishing Grain Banks in SC villages on the pattern adopted for STs which may provide food grains to needy SCs on loan during lean season which they may pay back from waged earned by them when employment is available.	In order to ensure a holistic approach towards income enhancement of the rural poor, NRLM/Aajeevika will focus on four streams of livelihoods which includes coping with vulnerabilities i.e. debt bondage, food insecurity, migration, health shocks. The Mission will also help in facilitating access to other entitlements such as food security and benefits of Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), drinking water, land improvement, education, and health and risk mitigation through convergence and

			<p>coordination mechanism.</p> <p>In may also be stated that the World Bank assisted Rural Livelihoods projects in Bihar and Andhra Pradesh have introduced Food Security Models involving the Self Help Groups (SHGs) and SHG federations. Under the NRLM/Aajeevika, it is proposed to introduce this component in all States, to ensure in-situ food security at the grass-roots level.</p>
7	76	<p>There should be special targeting of endemic areas which supply child labour from SC families under compulsion of poverty. Programmes for poverty alleviation and employment generation combined with other development schemes for welfare of SCs may be implemented there in a convergent mode and focused manner to plug supply of child labour therefrom. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment should initiate action to implement this proposal with the help of Ministry of Rural Development.</p>	<p>No such proposal from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has been received in this Department.</p>
8	106	<p>Those SCs who have land but have not yet been assisted under poverty Alleviation Programmes and Development Financing Schemes to improve its productive capacity for enhanced income generation may be covered by these schemes expeditiously. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment may collect State-wise information on such cases and liaise with Ministry of Rural Development etc. to monitor the progress of coverage under various poverty alleviation programmes. Those eligible to get assistance under the development financing schemes of the National SC Finance and Development Corporation would be easier to cover as the Corporation functions under the administrative control of the Ministry.</p>	<p>NRLM/Aajeevika will focus on Agriculture based livelihoods keeping in view the large proportion of rural households depending on agriculture based livelihoods. Agricultural techniques like 'System of Crop Intensification (SRI), Zero budget Natural Farming, Community Managed Sustainable Agriculture (CMSA) etc. which are technologies that best support small scale and marginal farmers, will be scaled up for increased agricultural productivity and hence enhanced incomes.</p>