

BACKWARD CLASSES, MOST BACKWARD

CLASSES AND MINORITIES WELFARE

DEPARTMENT

DEMAND NO.9

2009 – 2010

POLICY NOTE ON MINORITIES WELFARE

The Government of Tamil Nadu, following the path of Sage Valluvar, by fulfilling the obligations of Charity, Compassion, Justice and Protection of weaker sections without any omission, is taking all steps in an admirable manner for the development of social, educational and economic status of the people of all categories including the Minorities.

The Government is striving vigorously for ensuring that the Minorities secure their due share in the educational, employment and economic development. A separate Directorate for the welfare of Minorities has been functioning from 2007-2008 for the effective coordination and implementation of the schemes for minorities and for ensuring that the intended beneficiaries enjoy the fruits of the developmental programmes.

2) SEPARATE RESERVATION FOR MINORITIES

By considering the recommendations rendered by the Tamil Nadu Backward Classes Commission on the demands received from various sections seeking separate reservation for minorities, an Act, providing 3.5 per

cent reservation for the Backward Class Christians and 3.5 percent for the Backward Class Muslims, with effect from 15-09-2007, for admission in educational institutions and employment opportunities under the State Government was enacted. Subsequently, accepting the sentimental demands raised by the representatives of the Christian Communities stating that they are affected due to the separate reservation provided for the Backward Class Christians and to pave way for the Christian Communities to enjoy the benefits under the reservation for the Backward Class as in the past, the Act was amended by withdrawing the separate reservation provided for the Backward Class Christians in education and employment opportunities and to make them avail themselves the benefits under the 26.5% reservation for the Backward Classes. By accepting the request of the Muslim Communities the places earmarked for them in the roster have been modified.

3) SCHOLARSHIPS

Nearly 95% of the Muslims in the State are recognized as the Backward Class. Similarly about 80% of the Christians are declared as the Backward Classes and Most Backward Classes. Thus, the Muslims and Christians included in the list of the Backward Classes and Most Backward Classes are enjoying the benefits of the various scholarship schemes implemented by the Departments of the Backward Classes welfare and the Most Backward Classes Welfare.

Apart from the scholarship schemes offered by the State Government for the Backward Classes, the scholarship schemes sponsored by the Central Government for the Minorities are also implemented in the State effectively.

3.1) PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

The Scheme of implementing pre-matric scholarships to the students of minority communities studying in 1st to 10th Std has been sponsored by the Central Government since 2008-09. Under the scheme, scholarships for 15,340 students were allotted by the Central Government during 2008-09. Owing to the efforts taken by the Government to create awareness about this scheme among the students, a large number of scholarship applications have been received, and the Central Government have agreed to grant scholarships for 8,858 students additionally. Under the scheme, totally a sum of Rs.306.66 lakh has been disbursed benefiting 24,135 boys and girls during 2008-09 of which Rs.230.05 lakhs represent 75% share of the Central Government and Rs.76.61 lakhs account for 25% share of the State Government. In the pre-matric scholarship scheme, the Students of Minority Communities studying in 6th to 10th Std are sanctioned with admission fees upto a maximum of Rs.500/- p.a and tuition fee upto a maximum of Rs.3500/-p.a. Apart from this, the hostel students studying in 6th to 10th Std are granted maintenance allowance for 10 months in a year at the rate of Rs.600/-p.m and the day scholars of 1st to 10th std are given maintenance allowance at the rate of Rs.100/-p.m for 10 months.

The annual income of the parents should not exceed Rs.1 lakh for availing this scholarship. Further, 50% marks should have been scored in the previous year examination. 30% of the scholarships are earmarked for girl students.

3.2) POST-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

Post-matric Scholarships are given to the students of minority communities studying from 11th std to Research studies in the Government and recognized private schools and colleges in order to provide opportunity to the economically backward and eligible minority students to get higher education, to encourage these students to enter the portals of higher education in large numbers and to enhance their employability. Under the scheme introduced by the Government of India in the year 2007-08, a sum of Rs.94 lakh was disbursed to 2846 students in Tamil Nadu.

Owing to the relentless efforts taken by this Government, Government of India has accepted to release scholarships for 6693 students under the scheme during 2008-09. Apart from this, renewal scholarships were extended to 1311 students who received scholarship in 2007-08. Thus, a total sum of Rs.247 lakh was disbursed in the year 2008-09.

The annual income of the parents should not exceed Rs.2 lakh for availing this scholarship. The students should have obtained at least 50% marks in the previous year final Examination. 30% of the scholarships under the scheme is earmarked for girl students. Admission and tuition fees ranging

from Rs.3000 to Rs.7000/- are granted under the scheme. From Rs.235/- to Rs.510/- per month is sanctioned for hostellers and Rs.140/- to 300/- per month for day scholars as maintenance allowance.

3.3) MERIT CUM MEANS SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

This scheme is being implemented with 100% Central assistance from 2007-08 onwards. Under the scheme, scholarships are sanctioned to minority students pursuing Under Graduate and Post Graduate studies in technical and professional courses in the Government and Government approved private colleges, based on their marks and annual income of their parents not exceeding Rs.2.5 lakhs. At least 50% marks should have been secured in the previous year final Examination. 30% of the scholarships is sanctioned to girl students.

A sum of Rs.435.48 lakh was disbursed during 2008-09 to 765 students of minority communities as fresh scholarship and renewal scholarships to 894 students.

4) SCHOOL AND COLLEGE HOSTELS FOR MUSLIM GIRL STUDENTS

During 2008-09, 5 school cum college hostels were opened for the benefit of Muslim girl students in Dindigul, Vellore, Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli and Tirunelveli districts and they started functioning. 25 school girls and 25 college girls are accommodated in each hostel. Annual income ceiling of the parents of the students for admission in the Hostels has been raised from Rs.50,000/- to Rs.1,00,000/- from 2009-10 onwards.

5) SCHEME OF AWARDING PRIZES TO THE STUDENTS BELONGING TO MINORITY COMMUNITIES

A scheme of awarding of prizes at State and District level to the minority community students securing the highest marks in 10th and 12th Std Government Public Examinations was introduced by this Government for the first time in 2008-09, in order to motivate the learning habit among minority community students and with an objective of helping them acquire qualification for employment as in the case of the other categories by getting admission in the higher educational institutions.

5.1) STATE LEVEL PRIZES

Under the scheme, two first prizes, two second prizes and two third prizes at the rate of one boy and one girl are awarded to minority community students who secure the first, second and third places at the State level in the 12th std and 10th std public examinations. In respect of 12th std, first, second and third prizes are awarded at the rate of Rs.10,000/-, Rs.8,000/- and Rs.6,000/- respectively. In respect of 10th std, the prizes are given at the rate of Rs.5,000/-, Rs.4,000/- and Rs.3,000/- respectively.

5.2) DISTRICT LEVEL PRIZES

Under the scheme, two first prizes, two second prizes and two third prizes at the rate of one boy and one girl are awarded to minority community students, who secure the first, second and third places at the District level in the 12th std and 10th std public examinations. In respect of 10th std, the first,

second and third prizes are given at the rate of Rs.1,500/-, Rs.1,000/- and Rs.500/- respectively. In respect of 12th std, the above prizes are given at the rate of Rs.3,000/-, Rs.2,000/- and Rs.1000/- respectively.

In case, the first, second and third marks are secured by more than one student at the State and the District levels, they are also awarded prizes by increasing the number of prizes.

A total sum of Rs.7.02 lakh was awarded as prizes to 428 students during 2008-09 under the prizes scheme.

5.3) AWARD SCHEME TO STUDENTS STUDYING URDU LANGUAGE

This Government, respecting the sentiments of all the sections of people without any discrimination on grounds of race, religion language etc., is awarding prizes to three boys and three girls students who secure the highest marks in 10th std and 12th Std Public Examinations with Urdu as the second language in order to safeguard the languages of minorities. Under this Scheme, prizes of Rs.3000/-, Rs.2000/- and Rs.1000/- are awarded to the first 3 boys and the first 3 girls students who secure the highest marks in 12th std public examination. Similarly, in respect of 10th std the students are awarded Rs.2000/-, Rs.1500/- and Rs.1000/- respectively. If same marks are secured by more than one student, the prizes are awarded to all of them.

During 2008-09, Rs.22,500/- was disbursed as prizes to 13 students.

6) TRAINING FOR SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Economic stability is the basic requirement to live peacefully in the Society. The Government, being well aware of the fact that such economic standard can be achieved by undertaking self employment ventures and by obtaining employment opportunities in various organizations, is imparting training in various trades such as Information Technology, Designing and Production of Readymade Garments, Foot wear technology, Heavy vehicle Driving etc., in order to expand the scope of employment opportunities for minorities. Under the skill development training programme for minorities, a sum of Rs.2.50 crore has been spent benefiting 5000 minority youths.

This scheme will be continued in the current year also at a cost of Rs.2.50 crore benefiting 5000 minority youths.

7) TAMIL NADU MINORITIES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

In order to provide loan facilities to minorities and to improve their economic status, the Tamil Nadu Minorities Economic Development Corporation was established in 1999. This Corporation, by availing funds from the National Minorities Economic Development and Finance Corporation, is providing loans at a low rate of interest to minorities of Tamil Nadu. The Co-operative banks in Tamil Nadu, Tamil Nadu Co-operative Milk Producers

Federation, Tamil Nadu Handloom Weavers Co-operative Societies and Tamil Nadu Industrial Co-operative banks are functioning as sub-channelising agencies of the Tamil Nadu Minorities Economic Development Corporation.

Individual loans are given to minorities at lower interest (i.e. 6% rate of interest) to enable them to enhance their economic status by eking out their livelihood through self employment.

Rs.3280.15 lakh has so far been granted as individual loans to 8353 beneficiaries. Under Micro-Finance, Rs.2622.75 lakh has been disbursed so far benefiting 26586 beneficiaries.

Loans are sanctioned at 4% rate of interest to self help groups in which not less than 60% of the members shall be from minority communities. Orders were issued increasing the ceiling for individual loans from Rs.10000/- to Rs.25,000/- .

The persons belonging to minority communities and also members of Auto Drivers Industrial Co-operative Societies are provided with a loan upto Rs.1,21,000/- per member for purchase of Auto-Rickshaws at the rate of 6% interest for becoming self-employed. The Minorities, who are members of the Milk Producers Co-operative Societies are granted loan upto Rs.50,000/- for purchase of two cross breed cows and upto Rs.70,000/-for two Graded Murrah Buffaloes at the rate of 6% interest through Tamil Nadu Co-operative Milk Producers Federation (Aavin).

8) STATE MINORITIES COMMISSION

State Minorities Commission has been functioning in Tamil Nadu since 1989 to evaluate the implementation of the safeguards provided in the Constitution of India and in the laws enacted by the State Government and to suggest schemes for the welfare of Minorities. At present, 7 members including the Chairman have been nominated for this Commission.

9) MUSLIM WOMEN AID SOCIETY

Muslim Women Aid Societies have been formed and they are functioning in all the districts to provide assistance to destitute and aged Muslim women. The Government have sanctioned Rs.1 lakh to each society as seed money. The Government sanctions matching grant equal to the donations collected by these societies subject to a maximum of Rs.10 lakhs per society.

During 2008-09, Rs.3,21,575/- was sanctioned to Chennai Muslim Women Aid Society towards the matching grant by the Government.

10) REHABILITATION SCHEME

With a view to giving a new lease of life to the minority families who have lost their livelihood due to communal riots and assisting the discharged prisoners of petty offences to lead a decent life in the society, a rehabilitation

scheme was introduced in 2008-09. The beneficiaries selected under this scheme will be provided with a financial assistance upto Rs.10,000/- per family to set-up petty trades.

Under the scheme, Rs.30 lakh has been allotted to benefit 300 families during 2009-2010.

11) PRIME MINISTER'S NEW 15 POINT PROGRAMME

In order to ensure that benefits arising out of the broader development programmes percolate down to the minorities, due share is received by the minorities in employment under the Central and the State Government and secure the legitimate share in the schemes implemented for the economic development, Prime Minister's 15 Point Programme designed in September 2006 is being implemented. Under the programme, steps are being taken to augment the educational opportunities to minorities, to supply free text books to the minority students, to enable them to study in their mother tongue, through the Tamil Nadu Text Book Corporation, to provide legitimate share in the economic activities and employment opportunities and to prevent and control the communal riots. To monitor the proper implementation of the Prime Minister's 15 point programme, a committee at State level under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary and a committee at District level under the chairmanship of the District Collector have been constituted.

This Government have paved the way for the Backward Class Muslims to get due share in the posts under the State and in the educational institutions by providing 3.5% reservation to them. By implementing skill development programmes and by granting loans at a low rate of interest through the Tamil Nadu Minorities Economic Development Corporation, avenues have been created for the minorities to secure employment opportunities and earn livelihood by undertaking self employment enterprises.

12) ULEMAS WELFARE BOARD

On favourable consideration of the representations from Aalims, Pesh Imams, Arabic Teachers, Bilals, Mothinars, other workers of the mosques and Madarasas in Tamil Nadu and Muzawars working in Darghas, Burial grounds, Thaikas, Azurkhanas and Muslim Orphan Homes that their standard of life is in indigent conditions and that a Welfare Board may be formed to render various financial assistance to them, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has ordered that a Welfare Board to benefit them may be formed. Pursuant to the order, an announcement was made in the Budget 2009-10, that "**Ulemas and other personnel Welfare Board**" would be established. According to this scheme, Ulemas who have completed 18 years of age and not completed 60 years will be enrolled as members of the board and various welfare assistance available to the members of the similar welfare boards for unorganized labourers will be extended to the members and to the family

members of the Ulemas Welfare Board. For this purpose, a sum of Rs.10 lakhs has been provided in the current year.

This Government has designed and is implementing various schemes with ardent desire that the Minorities should also achieve social, educational and economic upliftment on par with the members of the majority communities. These efforts have paved the way for communal harmony in the State.

**M.K. STALIN,
Deputy Chief Minister**