

PROFILE OF THE SCH. CASTES

According to 2001 Census, Scheduled Castes population of the State is 5,55,724 which in terms of percentage stands at 17.37% of the total population. The following table will show the composition of the decadal growth of population of the State since 1961 :-

Year of Census	Total Population	SC Population	Percentage
1	2	3	4
1961	11,42,005	1,19,725	10.48
1971	15,56,342	1,92,860	12.39
1981	20,53,053	3,10,384	15.11
1991	27,57,205	4,51,116	16.36
2001	31,99,203	5,55,724	17.37

2.2. A striking feature of Scheduled Castes demography of Tripura is that the Sch. Castes are not confined exclusively to “Paras” or “Bastis” like some other parts of the country. They, by and large, live intermingled with other communities in the same village dispersed all over the State. In refreshing contrast to the situation in other States, the social distance between the Scheduled Castes and other communities in Tripura is minimum. Atrocities against Scheduled Castes and untouchability in the form it exists in other parts of the country, is unknown. There is no bonded labourer among the Scheduled Castes in the State.

2.3. Though the social position of Scheduled Castes in Tripura is relatively better as compared to that of the Scheduled Castes in other parts of the country, the fact remains that the Scheduled Castes here are at the lowest rung of the social ladder and almost at the bottom in the scale of poverty. About 70% of the Scheduled Caste population of the State is engaged in Agricultural activities either as small and marginal farmers or share croppers or as agricultural labourers. Practically, all fishermen families in the State belong to Scheduled Castes. 90% of the Scheduled Castes are displaced person from the erstwhile East Pakistan.

CHAPTER-III

REVIEW OF 2005-2006

The development of Scheduled Castes took a new turn with the special component Plan strategy adopted during the 6th five year plan for their accelerated development.

3.2. As already stated Special Component Plan villages are considered to be the prime target area for the implementation of the programme of development of Sch. Castes. At the same time attention is also being given to the scattered Sch. Caste population who are living outside the Special Component area. The responsibility for implementing the development plans, of course, rests with various development departments of the State. The Sch. Caste Welfare Department monitors and coordinates such activities. The Sch. Castes Co-operative Development Corporation is a special body created to promote economic development of the Sch. Castes.

3.3. The flow of institutional finance under different schemes for economic development of Sch. Castes during 2005-2006 and the target for 2006-2007 is shown in the table below:-

(Rs. in lakh)

Period	Financial Target		Financial achievement		Physical Target		Physical achievement	
	Scheme of		Scheme of		Scheme of		Scheme of	
	NSFD C	SGSY	NSFDC	SGSY	NSFD C	SGSY	NSFD C	SGSY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2005-06	154.55	197.40	167.46	146.07	451	2500	497	199
2006-07	167.46	--	--	--	500	2200	--	--

3.4. The total SCP outlay of the State for the year 2005-2006 was Rs. 84.36 crores as against a total state plan outlay of Rs. 922.43 Crores. Against a total State Plan expenditure of Rs. 1024.57 Crores. The SCP expenditure was Rs. 86.95 Crores which constitutes 8.49 of the total State Plan expenditure.

For the year 2006-2007 the SCSP outlay is Rs. 145.63 Crores as against a total state plan outlay of Rs. 950.00 Crores. This is 15.33% of the total state plan outlay.

3.5. SANCTION OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO POOR SCH. CASTES.

In the State of Tripura legal aid to Sch. Castes is provided under the legal services authorities Act, 1987. The Tripura State legal

services authority was constituted on 1st July, 1998 by a Notification issued by the Law Department of the Government of Tripura. District legal services authority and sub-Divisional Legal services committees were also formed by the Govt. Vide Notifications dated 1st July, 1998 and 9th July, 1998 respectively. The Commissioner and Secretary to the Government of Tripura is also an ex-officio Member of the Tripura State legal services Authority.

According to the legal services Authorities Act, 1987 and the Tripura State legal services Authorities Rules, 1998 special consideration is given to persons belonging to weaker section of the society, particularly SCs and STs.

3.6. SAFEGUARD AGAINST EXPLOITATION BY MONEY LENDERS.

The Bombay Money Lenders Act, 1946 has been extended to Tripura to regulate money lending and to protect the Sch. Caste families from the exploitation from the money lenders.

3.7. MINIMUM WAGES

The State Government have fixed minimum wages in several employments including employment in agricultural sector. Special emphasis is given for effective enforcement of minimum wages to agricultural labourers particularly to those belonging to Sch. Castes.

3.8. BONDED LABOURER

There is no bonded labourer in the state.

3.9. LIBERATION OF SCAVENGERS

On 30.4.1991 the State Government have declared the State of Tripura scavenger free and have liberated all the scavengers engaged in carrying night soil by head load.

3.10. PROBLEM OF UNTOUCHABILITY

Though there is a social distance between the Sch. Castes and other communities in Tripura, there is no problem of untouchability and atrocities against the Sch. Castes.

3.11 ROLE OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION IN SCHEDULED CASTES DEVELOPMENT

Upto 1993-94 there had been only one non-government organisation namely the Harijan Sevak Sangha with its Head Office at Agartala, functioning for the development of Sch. Castes. The

Sangha is running some Balwadies in the Sch. Castes areas. But from 1994-95 one more voluntary organisation namely the “West Bengal SC, ST and Minorities Welfare Association” having its branch office at Agartala (Head Office at Midnapur, West Bengal) started functioning in Tripura. It is imparting training to Sch. Caste candidates in Stenography, Type writing, Computer operation and in various industrial trades.