EMPOWERMENT OF MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES

619. SMT REKHA SHARMA

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:-

(a) the steps taken to ensure effective delivery of welfare schemes for Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes, senior citizens and Persons with Disabilities (PwDs);

(b) how digital platforms and DBT mechanisms are being used to improve transparency and last-mile delivery; and

(c) whether outcome-based monitoring is being undertaken to assess improvements in education, livelihoods and social mobility?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)

(a) to (c) The Ministry is implementing various welfare Schemes for the socially, educationally and economically marginalized sections of the society including Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes, Senior Citizens and Persons with Disabilities. To ensure effective delivery, nationwide awareness and optimal utilization of funds, Ministry undertakes broadbased outreach approach through advetisements in national and regional newspapers, social media campaigns, highlighting the success stories at multiple forums and in public domain, increased awareness through various shilp samagam melas, regular follow-up with States/UTs, stakeholder interactions, business to customer meets etc.

In addition, the Government has strengthened implementation of welfare schemes by using digital platforms, enhanced monitoring and grievance redressal mechanisms. Schemes are also regularly monitored by the Ministry through National level chintan shivirs, regional meetings and national conferences with the stakeholders and State/UT officials.

Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanism provides reformed delivery system, simpler and faster flow of information/funds and to ensure targeting of the beneficiaries and their de-duplication.

Further, designated digital platforms have been created under the schemes, provides a portal for receiving the applications, timely disbursement of funds to the beneficiaries, create a transparent database, avoid duplication in processing, harmonisation of different schemes & norms and tracking of processing of the applications. For outcome based monitoring, Ministry undertakes social audits of the Schemes, periodic and surprise inspections through the Project Monitoring Unit (PMU), periodic statutory audits and third-party evaluations.

*****