

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1400
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.07.2025**

EMPOWERING SCHEDULED CASTES AND OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES

1400. DR. AMAR SINGH:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has taken any steps to ensure welfare and focus on monitoring and evaluating policies, implementing inclusive development programmes and strengthening support for vulnerable groups;
- (b) if so, the details of the steps proposed to be taken by the Ministry for empowering Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes, addressing the needs of persons with disabilities, senior citizens and victims of substance abuse; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)**

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing various inclusive development programmes for Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes, and also the schemes addressing the needs of persons with disabilities, senior citizens and victims of substance abuse. Similarly, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is implementing various inclusive development programmes for Scheduled Tribes. The Ministries have taken several steps for examination of various schemes intensely to ensure the implementation at the ground level for inclusive development and strengthening support for vulnerable groups, which include:

- (i) Information dissemination by publicizing the activities and programmes through Electronic Media, Press, Print Media, Outdoor Media, Exhibitions/Fairs for awareness generation among the target groups and sensitising them particularly about online portals and application procedures, Direct Benefit Transfer methods.
- (ii) Focused monitoring of outputs and outcomes of the schemes through Project Monitoring Units by physical inspections, surprise inspections and publishing the inspections on portal and follow-up the same promptly.

(iii) Performance of schemes is monitored through the quarterly /annual progress reports furnished by the State governments/ UT administrations. For the effective monitoring of the schemes, the Bureau Heads are designated as Nodal Officers for various regions and States/UTs. During the field visit of Officers to State/UTs, discussions are held in order to identify constraints and to take corrective measures.

(iv) Financial and Physical performance is reviewed at the Secretary level with Programme Divisions regularly to ensure that the allocations provided for the schemes of the Ministries are utilized.

(v) Selected high priority schemes are monitored at the level of Minister level regularly.

(vi) Ministries also organize Conferences of State Social Welfare Ministers and the State Welfare Secretaries wherein all the schemes are reviewed. States/ UTs are also advised to strengthen their monitoring mechanism. In addition, video conferences are also held with the States/ UTs periodically.

(vii) Online system for monitoring of schemes is also developed to ensure continuous monitoring at all level.

(viii) The Ministries conduct evaluation studies from time to time through independent evaluation agencies to check whether the benefits of the schemes reach the target groups.
