

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2708  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.05.2016**

**2708. ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF SCS**

**KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:  
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:  
SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:  
DR. SUNIL BALIRAM GAIKWAD:  
SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:  
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:  
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:  
SHRI SATAV RAJEEV:  
SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO:  
DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:  
SHRI S.R. VIJAYAKUMAR:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has decided to commemorate the current financial year as the year of Economic Empowerment for SC entrepreneurs and if so, the details thereof along with the initiatives being taken in this regard;
- (b) the number of SC entrepreneurs targeted to avail the benefits thereunder;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to constitute a National Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Hub in the Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises Sector and if so, the details thereof along with the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and
- (d) the other steps being taken by the Government for the economic empowerment of the Scheduled Castes in the country?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT**

**(SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA)**

- (a) & (b): A number of initiatives have been taken for the Economic Empowerment of Scheduled Castes. However, there is no decision to commemorate the current financial year as the year of Economic Empowerment for SC entrepreneurs.
- (c) The Finance Minister in his Budget Speech of financial year 2016-17 has announced to constitute a National Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Hub in the MSME Ministry in partnership with industry associations. This Hub will provide professional support to Scheduled caste and scheduled tribe entrepreneurs to fulfil the obligations under the Central Government procurement policy 2012, adopt global best practices and leverage the Stand Up initiative.
- (d) The details are given in Annexure-I.

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**ANNEXURE-I IN REPLY TO PART(d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2708 TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.05.2016 ASKED BY SHRI KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH, SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA, SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR, DR.SUNIL BALRAM GAIKWAD, SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK, SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE, SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO, SHRI SATAV RAJEEV, SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO, DR.J.JAYAVARDHAN AND SHRI S.R.VIJAYAKUMAR REGARDING "ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF SCs"**

The initiatives taken for Economic Empowerment for SC entrepreneurs are as under-

- i. Government has initiated a "Stand-up India Scheme" to promote entrepreneurship among SC/ST and women Rs.500 crore has been provided for this purpose. The Scheme will facilitate at least two such projects per bank branch, one for each category of entrepreneur. This will benefit at least 2.5. lakh entrepreneurs.
- ii. Government has launched a scheme named 'Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes' with investment of Rs. 200 Crores to promote entrepreneurship among the Scheduled Castes. It is a Social Sector Initiative to promote entrepreneurship among the scheduled caste by way of concessional finance to enable financial inclusion for SC entrepreneurs and to motivate them for further growth of SC communities. The objective is also to develop SC entrepreneurs economically and to enhance direct and indirect employment generation for SC population in India. Companies having at least 60% stake holding by Scheduled Caste entrepreneurs for the past 12 months with management control are eligible for the Scheme.

No fixed number of beneficiaries may be given as the scheme lasts till the funds are utilized.

- iii. Government has launched a Credit Enhancement Guarantee Scheme for Scheduled Castes with investment of Rs. 200 Crore towards credit enhancement facility for young and start-up entrepreneurs, belonging to Scheduled Castes, who aspire to be part of neo middle class category with an objective to encourage entrepreneurship in the lower strata of the society resulting in job creation besides creating confidence in Scheduled Castes. The scheme is implemented by supporting the Banks and Financial Institutions in the form of Credit Enhancement Guarantee, who shall be providing financial assistance to the Scheduled Caste Entrepreneurs. The spirit of the above mentioned fund is to support those entrepreneurs who will create wealth, value for the society, create jobs and in turn will develop confidence and at the same time promote profitable businesses.

**Estimated SC Entrepreneurs :** As per Census, 2011, the SC population is 20.13 crore, which constitutes 16.63% of the total population, in India. There is a huge potential in such a large economy like ours for such schemes out of which SC population can prosper and get opportunities to progress into the main stream. Although, there is no reliable data on the profile of SC Entrepreneurs, but still, as per the rough estimates of various stake holders such as Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry(DICCI) etc. there are around 1000 Dalit entrepreneurs with combined turnover of Rupees Sixty thousand Crore. There are around 50 companies with turnover of Rs. 10 Crore or more. Hence, the Credit Enhancement Guarantee Scheme has the potential not only to significantly uplift the businesses of the existing SC entrepreneurs but also the first generation SC entrepreneurs, who aspire to be part of neo middle class category.

- (iv) National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) provides concessional loans to persons belonging to Scheduled Caste living below Double the Poverty Line limit [presently annual family income of Rs.98,000/- for rural areas and Rs.1,20,000/- for urban areas] under its loan Schemes through State Channelising Agencies (SCAs) nominated by respective State Governments / UT Administration and other channel partners.

NSFDC has targeted to provide concessional loan under its schemes to 64,000 eligible SC entrepreneurs in 2016-17.