

15 -ാം കേരള നിയമസഭ

13 -ാം സമ്മേളനം

നക്ഷത്ര ചിഹ്നം ഇല്ലാത്ത ചോദ്യം നം. 2797

10-03-2025 - ൽ മറുപടിയ്ക്ക്

ദേശീയ പട്ടികജാതി കമ്മീഷന്റെ സന്ദർശനം

ചോദ്യം		ഉത്തരം	
ശ്രീ. യു. എ. ലത്തീഫ്		ശ്രീ ഒ. ആർ. കേള (പട്ടിക ജാതി, പട്ടിക വർഗ്ഗ, പിന്നാക്ക വിഭാഗ ക്ഷേമ വകുപ്പ് മന്ത്രി)	
(എ)	സർക്കാരിന്റെ കാലത്ത് ദേശീയ പട്ടികജാതി കമ്മീഷൻ എത്ര പ്രാവശ്യം സംസ്ഥാനത്ത് ഔദ്യോഗിക സന്ദർശനം നടത്തിയെന്ന് വിശദമാക്കാമോ;	(എ)	ഈ സർക്കാരിന്റെ കാലത്ത് ദേശീയ പട്ടികജാതി കമ്മീഷൻ സംസ്ഥാനത്ത് ഒരു പ്രാവശ്യം സന്ദർശനം നടത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്.
(ബി)	കമ്മീഷന്റെ ഔദ്യോഗിക സന്ദർശന വിവരം പത്ര-ടെലിവിഷൻ-സാമൂഹ്യ മാധ്യമങ്ങൾ മുഖേന ജനങ്ങളെ അറിയിക്കാറുണ്ടോ; വ്യക്തമാക്കാമോ;	(ബി)	ദേശീയ പട്ടികജാതി കമ്മീഷൻ ഔദ്യോഗിക സന്ദർശനത്തിന്റെ ഭാഗമായി പബ്ലിക് ഹിയറിംഗ് നടത്തുന്ന സന്ദർഭങ്ങളിൽ പത്ര - ടെലിവിഷൻ - സാമൂഹ്യ മാധ്യമങ്ങൾ മുഖേന ജനങ്ങളെ അറിയിക്കാറുണ്ട്.
(സി)	കമ്മീഷൻ സന്ദർശന വേളയിൽ നടത്തിയ മീറ്റിംഗുകളുടെ മിനിറ്റ്സിന്റെയും നടപടികളുടെയും ശുപാർശകളുടെയും പകർപ്പ് ലഭ്യമാക്കാമോ?	(സി)	ദേശീയ പട്ടികജാതി കമ്മീഷൻ സംസ്ഥാനത്ത് ഔദ്യോഗിക സന്ദർശനം നടത്തിയ മീറ്റിംഗുകളുടെ മിനിറ്റ്സിന്റെയും ശുപാർശകളുടേയും പകർപ്പ് അനുബന്ധമായി ചേർക്കുന്നു.

സെക്ഷൻ ഓഫീസർ

**Minutes of the State-Level Review Meeting of the National
Commission for Scheduled Castes in Kerala**

Date January 6, 2025

Welcome and Opening Remarks

The meeting commenced with the Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Kerala extending a warm welcome to the members of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes. In his welcome address, he highlighted that the primary agenda of the meeting was to review the status of Scheduled Castes (SC) in the state. The Hon. Chairperson of the Commission, Shri Kishore Makwana, formally opened the session, inviting the MPs, ex-MPs, MLAs, and ex-MLAs to engage in a discussion regarding the effectiveness of the developmental schemes implemented by the Government of Kerala. The Hon'ble Chairman further extended a cordial welcome to all participants present at the program, and invited the people's representatives to share their insights on the status of the Scheduled Caste community, particularly in relation to the measures undertaken by the Government of Kerala.

**Introductory Remarks by Smt. Sharada Muraleedharan IAS, Chief
Secretary to the Government of Kerala**

Provided a comprehensive overview of the developmental initiatives for the Scheduled Caste (SC) population in Kerala, highlighting the following key points:

Key Demographics:

- The SC population in Kerala stands at 30.39 lakhs, constituting 9.1% of the state's total population, with 14.5% of this being children.

- The literacy rate among SCs is 89%, with female literacy at 85% and male literacy at 92.6%.

Kerala Model of Development and Panchayat Raj System:

- Local bodies in Kerala receive 27% of the state plan grant, with specific plans for SCs and STs being funded based on recommendations from the State Finance Commission.
- Local bodies have the autonomy to draft plans specifically aimed at the development of the Scheduled Castes.

Key Achievements:

- **Kudumbashree Projects (NRLM and NULM):** These projects include 15% SC households. Elections for the positions of member and chairperson are held every three years. The chairperson positions at the panchayat and municipal levels are reserved on a rotational basis, with 10% of the total reservations allocated for SC members, and 2% of this further reserved for ST members.
- **Education and Skill Development:** The Government of Kerala has implemented various initiatives in the education and skill development sectors. These programs have helped members of the SC communities secure prominent positions in fields such as IT, aviation, blockchain development, and cybersecurity. Notably, 23% of graduates and 28% of postgraduates emerging from these programs belong to the SC communities.
- **MGNREGA:** 13% of job cardholders are SCs, contributing 18% of man-days.
- **Scholarships:** The Kerala Government provides financial assistance of ₹25 lakh per student as a scholarship to support SC students aspiring for higher education abroad. Additionally, the state's model residential schools have

demonstrated exemplary academic performance, achieving a pass percentage of 100%.

- **Employment Reservations:** In the government sector, an 8% reservation is allocated for Scheduled Castes.

However, there remain several challenges that require attention. Poverty within the SC communities remains 2-3% higher than the general population. Furthermore, additional initiatives are necessary to improve access to amenities, livelihood opportunities, and in the socio-economic and healthcare sectors. The government has also been requesting disaggregate data to ensure more precise and effective policy implementation.

Following the Chief Secretary's address, Shri Puneeth Kumar, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, presented a PowerPoint presentation. Subsequently, members of the legislative and parliamentary bodies, including MLAs, Ex-MLAs, MPs, and Ex-MPs, shared their views and suggestions.

Key Issues Highlighted by the people's representatives

1. Shri S. Rajendran, former MLA

Raised a pertinent issue regarding the non-availability of Caste Certificates for linguistic minorities in Idukki district. He pointed out that the Tahsildar, who holds the powers of a magistrate, is authorized to conduct preliminary inquiries and issue the Caste Certificate. However, instead of exercising this power, revenue officials are mandating a Migration Certificate as a prerequisite for issuing the Caste Certificate. This practice poses significant challenges for the affected individuals, preventing them from availing the benefits reserved for Scheduled Castes. As a result, many individuals are being denied opportunities, particularly in the fields of education and employment. Shri Rajendran recommended that amendments be made to the 1951 Act of Parliament to address this issue and streamline the process.

Furthermore, raised concerns regarding the atrocities committed against members of the Scheduled Caste communities. He expressed his apprehension over the lack of responsiveness from police officials, even when complaints are formally filed by the victims.

2. Shri K.Soma Prasad, former Member of Parliament

Requested an increase in the income cutoff limit for centralized policy schemes, specifically the pre-matric scholarship component for students in standards nine and ten. He suggested that the income limit be raised to at least five lakh rupees, as opposed to the current threshold of 2.5 lakh rupees. He explained that the existing income threshold restricts access to the scholarship, particularly in Kerala, where the socio-economic conditions are unique. To illustrate this point, he mentioned that even agricultural workers in Kerala may not qualify for the scholarship due to the low-income limit. Additionally, he noted that in Kerala, there is no upper income limit for any scheme or scholarship.

Raised concerns about the non-availability of central funds for the implementation of programs under the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCP) and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) schemes. He highlighted that while the state government allocates an amount exceeding the proportionate share of the Scheduled Caste population for these plans, the central component of assistance has been discontinued since 2004.

Furthermore, expressed his concern that the Central Finance Commission does not consider any requests from Kerala regarding the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

3. Shri. Sachin Dev, Member of Legislative Assembly

Suggested that the pre-matric scholarship, which is currently available only to students in standards nine and ten, should be extended to include students from standards one to eight as well.

4. **Shri.K.K.Shaju Ex MLA and Chairman of the Kerala State Development Corporation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes**

The lack of adequate funds as a major issue hindering the effective implementation of welfare programs for Scheduled Caste (SC) communities. He explained that the funding for the corporation is shared between the Centre and the State at a ratio of 49% and 51%, respectively. Shri K.K. Shaju also emphasized the importance of creating additional support systems to enable young individuals to acquire new knowledge in fields such as Information Technology (IT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI). Furthermore, he highlighted the need to establish a network system to raise awareness among SC/ST communities in panchayats and other local bodies regarding the various Central Government schemes

5. **Shri. S. Raja, Member of the Legislative Assembly**

Stated that the insufficient allocation of central funds poses a significant challenge in completing the construction of roads and buildings.

1. **Smt. O.S. Ambika, Member of the Legislative Assembly**

Stated that the funding provided by the state government, based on the proportionate population, is insufficient to effectively implement welfare programs in her constituency, which comprises 207 out of 270 colonies. She emphasized the need for increased central funds to address this issue. Regarding housing construction, she pointed out that while the state government allocates four

lakh rupees for building a house, the central government's contribution of 72,000 rupees is inadequate. Smt. Ambika also highlighted the necessity for central assistance in providing additional educational scholarships and urged the removal of the income limit for such schemes.

7. Smt. Santhakumari, Member of the Legislative Assembly

Emphasized the need for greater central assistance to support various initiatives in her constituency. She called for the expansion of scholarship opportunities in the educational sector and the removal of income restrictions that limit access to central assistance. Additionally, she raised concerns about the decrease in budgetary allocations for MGNREGA, which poses a challenge to the program's effectiveness. Smt. Santhakumari highlighted the necessity of creating job-oriented skill development programs, particularly for qualified women, with a special focus on women from tribal areas, especially in Idukki and Wayanad. She further advocated for a special package aimed at enhancing women's skills. Additionally, she called for addressing the challenges faced by the second generation of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe populations.

Observations and Suggestions by the Commission

Shri Gudey Srinivas IAS, Secretary to the National Commission, informed that prior to their visit to Kerala, the Commission had requested the Central Social Welfare Department to allocate the necessary funds for the implementation of welfare programs. He noted that, in accordance with the requests of the state government, additional funds could also be sought. Shri Gudey Srinivas highlighted the significant gap in literacy rates between the SC/ST communities and the general population. He assured that the issue of income limits, which has been raised by several other states, would be addressed. He further stated that if additional funds were required, the state government would need to submit formal requests, which would be duly considered.

At this juncture, Shri Sumod P.P., Member of the Legislative Assembly, intervened to bring the Commission's attention to the Government Medical College in Palakkad, where 70 out of 100 seats are reserved for SC students. He described it as a unique institution in India and requested central assistance for the college. Shri Gudey Srinivas expressed appreciation for this distinctive initiative and encouraged the submission of a formal proposal for consideration.

Shri Kishore Makwana inquired about the current status of students who had graduated from the Government Medical College in Palakkad. In response, Shri Rajan Khobragade stated that most of the graduates have been placed in the Kerala Health Department through the Public Service Commission (PSC), while some have secured employment in private hospitals.

The major observations and suggestions of the Commission are as follows:

1. **Poverty**

Shri Gudey Srinivas IAS highlighted the existing gap between Scheduled Castes (SC) and the general population, noting a disparity of 3% for the general population and 6% for women, which requires immediate attention. He further pointed out that, despite the SC population constituting only 9% of the total population, the poverty level among them stands at 15%, a statistic that warrants the state's attention.

At this juncture, the Chief Secretary intervened, referencing figures from the NITI Aayog regarding multidimensional poverty, which stands at 0.5%. He stated that the state government has made efforts to identify families living in poverty, estimating that 12,000 out of 64,000 families fall under this classification. A significant proportion of these families belong to the SC categories. The government is actively working to assess their

food, health, and employment needs, and micro-plans are being developed to uplift these families from poverty.

2. Data Deficiency

Lack of disaggregated data on schemes such as Mudra and Stand Up India. The Commission expressed concerns regarding the unavailability of detailed data on health issues and the implementation of governmental schemes.

3. Representation in Local Bodies

Shri Love Kush Kumar inquired about the election system for local bodies in Kerala and the representation of Scheduled Castes (SC). In response, the Chief Secretary clarified that, in accordance with the proportional representation system, SC representation is up to 10% across all three tiers of Panchayats.

Concerns expressed by Shri O.R. Kelu, Minister, Government of Kerala

Minister for Welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Backward Classes, brought to the Commission's attention several issues concerning the implementation of welfare programs for the Scheduled Caste community.

1. Delay in Central Funds

The instalments of central government funds for various schemes such as PMAY, PMAJAY, etc., are being released late, typically by March. This delay has made it challenging to prepare expenditure statements, resulting in the withholding of further instalments until the statements are submitted. It is imperative to ensure the timely release of funds at the beginning of the financial year.

2. Other Key Concerns

- Clarification is required on whether biometric punching will be made mandatory for scholarship schemes.
- Central assistance should be provided regularly and without interruption.
- The issue of issuing Caste Certificates to linguistic minorities, particularly concerning inter-state migration, persists as a challenge across all districts of Kerala.
- A larger number of backward communities should be categorized as Scheduled Castes.
- Central assistance should be extended to young members of Scheduled Castes to facilitate the creation of more job opportunities.
- The Scheduled Caste Corporation has been denied statutory grants for the past three years.

Observations of the Commission on the State Government's Response

Following this, Shri Kaushal Kumar, Director of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), presented the Commission's observations regarding the state's response to the questionnaire provided by the government. The key points are summarised below::

1. Better Positioning of Kerala SCs

Based on the demographic and socio-economic data provided, it was observed that the condition of Scheduled Castes (SCs) in Kerala is comparatively better than in other Indian states. The proportion of families living below the poverty line (BPL) is

relatively low; however, the percentage of SC families within this group is slightly higher at 15%, which exceeds the percentage of the community's overall population.

The high percentage of annual graduate turnout among Scheduled Castes is commendable. Between 2020 and 2024, 27% of boys and 25% of girls who graduate each year belong to the SC community. Furthermore, 28% of professional graduates and 29% of those in specialised fields represent a significant achievement.

2. Literacy Gap

Issue: A literacy gap of 5.21% between SCs and the general population requires attention.

3. Decline in Enrolment Rates

Observation: Upon reviewing the figures for the educational attainment of Scheduled Castes in the year 2023-24, it was found that student enrolment at the primary level was 132,474, which decreased to 115,202 at the middle level. However, enrolment increased to 120,742 at the secondary level. This pattern has been observed in previous years as well. An explanation for the significant decline at the middle level should be provided.

4. Disparity Under PM Awas Yojana

Observation: An analysis of district-wise details under the PM Awas Yojana revealed discrepancies in the allocation of houses based on the proportion of the Scheduled Caste (SC) population. In 2020-21, the proportion of houses allotted ranged between 23% and 1.6%, despite SC populations in many districts being 13%, 11%, 12%, and similar figures. This disparity persisted in 2021-22 and 2022-23. However, a notable achievement was

observed in 2022-23, where 97% and 95% of houses in two districts were allocated to SC beneficiaries.

5. Data Deficiency

Issue: The data provided on the implementation of the Mudra and Start-Up schemes by the state government does not include specific information regarding the Scheduled Caste (SC) communities. This data must be furnished. Additionally, details on other schemes, such as Shishu (loan amounts up to ₹50,000), Kishore (₹50,000 to ₹5,00,000), Tarun (₹5,00,000 to ₹10,00,000), Tarun Plus (₹10,00,000 to ₹20,00,000), and Stand-Up India (₹10,00,000 to ₹1 crore), are also required.

Under the Stand-Up India scheme, it is mandatory to extend loans to one SC/ST individual or one woman per bank branch. However, specific details regarding loans extended to SCs under this scheme have not been provided and need to be submitted. Furthermore, data on the distribution of hand pumps has not been furnished and should be included in the report.

6. Discrepancy in Occupancy Rates in Hostels

Issue: With regard to hostel facilities for students, there are 43 pre-matric and 11 post-matric hostels available for boys, accommodating 1,375 and 831 students, respectively. For girls, there are 40 pre-matric and 8 post-matric hostels, with an occupancy of 1,325 and 737 students, respectively. The reason for the discrepancy in occupancy between boys and girls needs to be clarified.

7. Non-Receipt of Scholarships

Issue: It was observed that 1.9% of students were unable to receive post-matric scholarships during the period from 2019-20 to 2022-23. Additionally, 42 students (6 in 2019-20, 13 in 2020-

21, 2 in 2021-22, and 21 in 2022-23) were unable to avail of pre-matric scholarships during the same period.

The Additional Chief Secretary intervened and attributed the non-availability of scholarships to glitches related to Aadhaar seeding.

8. Need for Beneficiary Data on Agricultural Land Schemes

Need: With respect to land schemes, data has been provided only up to 2019-20. The Commission requested the submission of the criteria used for selecting beneficiaries of these schemes and directed that details of land schemes implemented after 2019-20 also be furnished. Additionally, the Commission recommended that the state conduct a survey to identify the 16% of Scheduled Castes living below the poverty line.

Regarding agricultural land beneficiaries, data has been provided for only two years (2019-20 and 2020-21). The Commission raised concerns about whether the scheme has been discontinued and sought clarification on its current status.

9. MGNREGA

Observation: The Commission inquired about the average number of man-days provided per person annually under MGNREGA. According to the data for the period from 2019-20 to 2023-24, it was observed that the number of man-days ranged between 15, 20, 28, and occasionally 32, which falls significantly short of the stipulated requirement of 100 man-days. Smt. Sharmila Mary Joseph provided further details regarding the allocation of man-days under MGNREGA during this period.

10. Dropout Rates

Concern: The dropout rate of Scheduled Caste (SC) students at the elementary school level was reported to be 13%. This

figure was disputed by the Minister and the Chief Secretary, who suspected a potential misrepresentation of the data. The concerned official was directed to submit revised and accurate figures.

- Smt. Supriya, Director, presented statistical data highlighting a dip in the number of SC students at the middle school level, followed by a rise at the secondary level. She explained that this phenomenon occurs as students often transition to private schools at the middle level and return to government schools at the secondary level.
- Shri. Gudey Srinivas emphasised the need for the government to monitor the transition of SC students from the primary to secondary level, particularly in districts with a high SC population.
- The Chief Secretary outlined the government's commitment to achieving 100% digital literacy as part of its broader educational initiatives.

11. Relief Under SC/ST PO Act

Concern: Only 228 individuals received relief out of 86,635 pending cases.

12. Other Key observations

- **PM Ujjwala Yojana:** It has been noted that only 5.75% of the total connections under the scheme were allocated to SCs, despite their population being close to 10%. This disparity warrants further investigation and corrective measures.
- **Jan Dhan Accounts:** The absence of data regarding Jan Dhan accounts opened by SC beneficiaries has been highlighted. This lack of information needs to

be addressed to ensure that the benefits of the scheme are being equitably distributed.

- **Educational Loans:** There has been a significant decline in the availing of educational loans by SC students, with the figures decreasing steadily from 7.7% in 2020-21 to 2.8%, 3.23%, and 2.1% in the subsequent years. This decline raises concerns and requires attention to understand the causes and find solutions.
- **SCSP Plan Outlay and Expenditure:** The allocation under the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) for the years 2019-2024 was ₹9.81 crore, with actual expenditures reported as ₹6.1 crore, ₹6.74 crore, ₹5.98 crore, ₹9.95 crore, and ₹8.31 crore, respectively. The gap between the allocated funds and the actual expenditure needs to be clarified and addressed to ensure efficient utilization.
- **Centrally Sponsored Schemes:** The allocation and expenditure under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, including pre-matric scholarships, have been observed, with a need for further clarification regarding fund utilization. Proper accounting and reporting are essential to ensure that the allocated funds reach the intended beneficiaries effectively.

Shri. Rajan N Khobragade, IAS, addressed the concept of the life cycle approach, emphasizing its holistic perspective on life. He elaborated on various projects that have been implemented, which address a wide range of issues, including those related to infant mortality as well as palliative care.

Concluding Remarks

The Commission conveyed its appreciation for the efforts undertaken by the Kerala Government, while also highlighting the necessity for enhanced data collection and more targeted

interventions to address the existing gaps. Hon. Chairperson Shri Kishore Makwana assured that the Commission would take up any unresolved issues with the Central Government for further action and resolution.

Vote of Thanks

Shri Gudey Srinivas, IAS, Secretary to the National Commission, concluded the session by expressing gratitude to all participants for their valuable contributions. He assured that appropriate follow-up actions would be taken on the recommendations made during the review meeting.

Minutes of the State Level Review of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes in Kerala (Second Day)

Date: 7th January 2025

Introduction

The second day of the State Level Review of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) in Kerala was held on 7th January 2025 to assess the progress of various initiatives aimed at the welfare of Scheduled Castes (SC). The meeting was highlighted by a presentation from Kerala State officials on the state's efforts and challenges in addressing the concerns of these communities. Address by Director General of Police, Kerala.

The Director General of Police (DGP) elaborated on various initiatives undertaken by the Kerala Police to ensure the safety and security of Scheduled Caste (SC) communities in the state. The key highlights of the presentation are as follows:

1. Police Initiatives for SC/ST Protection

The Kerala Police established a **special cell at the police headquarters in 2015** to safeguard the interests of SC and ST communities. This initiative was implemented as per government directives and is led by the Superintendent of Police (SP), who oversees awareness programs, reviews SC/ST-related cases, and manages training camps such as **Sadbhavna Shivir**.

- The special cell receives funding from both the **central and state governments**, with the state contributing **50%** of the total funds. Over the past **3-4 years**, the allocated funds have ranged between **Rs. 5-10 lakh**, with **Rs. 8 lakh sanctioned for the current year**, to be utilized within the next **two to three months**.
- A **mobile squad** has been formed to investigate petitions, complaints, and cases related to SC/ST grievances.

Following the presentation by the DGP, the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) emphasized the following key points:

2. Educational Support Programs

The Kerala Police support an initiative called '**Hope**', which is designed to assist **underprivileged children from SC/ST communities who drop out of school**. The program provides **academic support and resources** to help such children reintegrate into the education system and succeed in their studies.

3. Crime and FIR Statistics

The Director General of Police (DGP) presented the latest statistics on **First Information Reports (FIRs) registered under SC/ST cases**:

- According to **NCRB data**, **1,050 FIRs** were registered in 2022, marking an increase from **858 FIRs in 2019**.
- The **crime rate in Kerala has increased from 27.8% in 2020 to 34.5% in 2022**, exceeding the **national average of 28.6%**.
- A key factor contributing to this rise is **Kerala's proactive approach in registering cases, even for minor complaints**, which is not a common practice across all states.
- Kerala's approach **differs significantly from states like Assam**, where the FIR registration rate is lower despite having a similar population size. (For instance, while **Assam registers around three lakh cases annually** for a population of **3.5 crore**, **Kerala, with a population of 3.2 crore, registers only about fifty thousand cases.**)

4. GIS Mapping and False Case Analysis

- The **GIS mapping system** enables police to track SC/ST-related cases that have been taken up for trial, conduct inquiries regarding **their background and location**, and classify them as **minor or major offenses** for better monitoring.

- Certain individuals have been found to **repeatedly file cases to obtain financial assistance** from the state government. Some of these cases involve **false statements**, which the police continue to investigate rigorously.

5. Case Review and Addressing Regional Issues

- At the **end of each month** or the **beginning of the following month**, the **officer-in-charge personally conducts a detailed cross-checking of pending cases**.
- In **border-sharing areas with Tamil Nadu**, **linguistic groups have raised concerns regarding plantation workers and border-related issues**. The state is committed to ensuring justice in such matters, though some cases remain **unresolved**.
- Additionally, in certain **rape cases**, **victims have become hostile**, further complicating the legal proceedings.

6. Legal Aid and Public Complaint Registration

- The **legal consultant** inquired about the **availability of legal aid** for SC victims and requested the **state police to provide relevant data** on the issue. While some data remains **unrecorded**, a **brief report** has been submitted.
- In **certain cases**, victims appear to become **hostile to obtain financial assistance**, which ultimately does not serve their best interests.
- In Kerala, the **public has the option to register complaints via email** to the police's **official mail ID**. Complainants may later appear **in person** to formally file an FIR when feasible.

7. Rape Case Compensation

Under the provisions of the **1999 Act**, compensation for **rape victims** is structured as follows:

- **Rs. 5 lakh** for **gang rape victims**, disbursed in three installments:
 - **50% after the medical examination**

- **25% when the charge sheet is filed**
 - **25% upon conclusion of the case**
- A total of **Rs. 8.25 lakh** is mandated as compensation for such cases.

Recommendations and Observations of the Commission

- The Commission recommended that Special Prosecution Officers handling SC/ST cases should possess a minimum of 6-7 years of experience. The rise in false cases has been attributed to private legal officers who mislead the public, thereby encouraging the filing of cases ranging from minor to major offenses. To prevent false cases, it is necessary to restrict the interaction between legal officers and the public.
- The Commission reported that 80% of the 400 cases reviewed were related to rape. Additionally, the Commission examined the impact of the capitalist system in rural areas on the SC/ST community. The state police clarified that no such issues exist in Kerala, emphasizing that the people of Kerala are highly socialized and that such concerns are often sensationalized by the media.
- The Commission also expressed appreciation for the PowerPoint presentation on the prevention of atrocity cases

8. False Case Reports and Legal Aid

The Commission observed a rising trend in false cases, particularly in matters related to rape and financial assistance claims within the SC/ST communities. Legal consultants expressed concerns regarding the legal aid available to victims of SC/ST atrocities and recommended enhancements in the collection and documentation of legal aid data.

- It was reported that certain victims turn hostile during proceedings, potentially due to financial assistance schemes associated with the cases.
- The Commission stressed the necessity of a more stringent review process, especially for the prosecution of false cases. Furthermore, the importance of appointing experienced Special Commission Prosecutors with a minimum of 6-7 years of experience was underscored.

Session2

The second session commenced with a PowerPoint presentation by Smt. Anupama IAS.

Issues Faced by Migrant Workers

Smt. Anupama IAS provided insights into the challenges encountered by migrant workers, particularly those engaged in hazardous occupations such as septic tank cleaning. These workers often lack access to essential benefits, thereby imposing a financial burden on the state.

- Several existing welfare schemes, including the **Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme, Janani Suraksha Yojana**, and **Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana**, were proposed to extend support to migrant workers.
- The Commission emphasized the necessity of enhancing the database of migrant workers to facilitate better access to these benefits.

Commission's Acknowledgment and Recommendations

The Commission expressed its gratitude to the Chief Secretary and all officers for facilitating the visit and commended the Kerala Government for its exemplary efforts and remarkable work.

- The Commission emphasized the necessity of deploying additional officers in SC/ST sectors, particularly at the local government level, to ensure effective implementation of policies and responsiveness to recommendations.
- The Commission requested Kerala state officers to convey the outcomes and key highlights of this review to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, underscoring its significance and the need for further action.

GIS Mapping for Atrocity Prevention

- The Commission commended Kerala's use of **GIS mapping technology** in preventing atrocities against SC/ST communities. This technology has enabled the state to gather comprehensive data on case backgrounds, locations, and the nature of crimes, thereby enhancing the tracking and resolution of such cases.

Key Requests from the State of Kerala

The following key requests were highlighted as part of the major review discussions:

- **Community Certificates:** Streamlining the issuance of Community Certificates to ensure accessibility for all eligible individuals.
- **Income Limit:** Revision of the Income Limit criteria to enhance inclusivity and expand the reach of benefits.
- **Hostel Facilities:** Expansion of hostel facilities for students belonging to SC/ST communities.
- **Housing Loans:** Provision of housing loans to improve the living conditions of marginalized sections.
- **Raising Funds from the Central Government:** Securing increased Central Government funding to support welfare initiatives and address developmental needs.

Acknowledgment and Commitment by the State of Kerala

The representative from Kerala extended gratitude to all 15 delegations who participated in the program. The state reaffirmed its commitment to addressing these concerns through continuous monitoring, policy reforms, and the integration of technology to enhance outcomes for SC/ST communities in Kerala.

- The state assured full adherence to the Commission's recommendations for improving the financial and social development of the SC/ST community, emphasizing its commitment to ensuring justice.
- By leveraging **GIS mapping technology**, the state has strengthened its reporting and analysis capabilities through the collection of technical data.
- Any numerical discrepancies identified during the presentation have been corrected and will be promptly shared with the Commission.

Service Safeguards

Smt. Soorya Gopinath, Under Secretary to the Government of Kerala, SC-ST Development Department, presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the safeguards taken on behalf of the Scheduled Castes in the Government Service sector and employees in public sector undertakings. The presentation included the following points:

The present status of reservation for SC-ST in PSC candidates was discussed. Even though it is mandatory to maintain the strength of SC employees at no less than 8%, the current figures are 9.75% in the gazetted category, 9.26% in the non-gazetted category, and 11.57% in the last grade category.

At present, there is no reservation for promotion. However, employees belonging to the Scheduled Castes are promoted even if they have not qualified the prescribed promotion tests. They

are permitted to qualify for the promotion tests within a stipulated time after receiving the promotion.

In order to verify cases of false caste certificates used to obtain employment, there is a scrutiny committee under the chairmanship of the Additional Chief Secretary to the Government. Currently, there are 17 cases pending before this scrutiny committee. As this committee has the nature of a civil court, several aspects must be considered before a final decision is taken. The Secretary to the Honourable Commission asked how many cases are pending and how long they have been pending. It was explained that 17 cases have been pending for the past 5 years. The Secretary to the Honourable Commission suggested that long pendency in such cases should be resolved. Issues relating to caste certificates should be cleared within one or two years.

It was also explained that special recruitments are conducted to fill backlog vacancies. In some departments, such as health, there are vacancies in the SC quota. The Additional Chief Secretary explained all the facts and conditions prevailing in the State. It was further explained that around 290 vacancies need to be filled in the service sector. The Honourable Commission observed all the points and suggested taking necessary steps for special recruitments to fill these vacancies.

Commission's Final Remarks and Conclusion

The Commission expressed gratitude to the Chief Secretary and the state officers for their efforts in ensuring the welfare of SC/ST communities. They emphasized the need for continued attention and dedicated personnel in the SC/ST sector, particularly at the local government level.

- The Commission requested that the Chief Minister be informed of the review and its findings.

The meeting concluded with a note of appreciation for the efforts made by Kerala state officers and the government in

supporting the SC/ST communities. The Commission acknowledged the challenges faced and suggested more focused interventions, especially in legal and financial aspects, to further the welfare of these communities.

Report on visit of Dr. S.Ravivarman, Director (on additional charge) NCSC, State Office Kerala to State Office at Trivandrum

Director, NCSC Kerala arrived Trivandrum on 09.06.2024 at 11:15 PM Trivandrum airport. He stayed in the State Office from 10.06.2024 - 12.06.2024

Issue of SC Community certificate to Arunthathiyar Caste

Arunthathiyar Caste is one of the major sub castes in the state of Kerala. Telugu language is their mother tongue. They speak Malayalam language also their ancestors were the original inhabitants of Madras province of British raj. At present the Arunthathiyar caste live in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telengana states.

In Kerala Arunthathiyar caste people lives scatterdly across the State. Their complaint is that they are denied of SC Community certificate. The reason for denial of SC community certificate is that they migrated from Tamil Nadu state to Kerala after the year 1950. They reported that because of this issue nearly 3 lakh Arunthathiyar people have been affected economically and educationally in 3 districts in Kerala. They also added, the refusal of SC Community certificate has jeopardised the children of Arunthathiyar in accessing to education, employment and training.

The issue of denial of SC community certificate for Arunthathiyar caste had been discussed with the District Administration of Kottayam in 2023. However, the district administration could not resolve the issue till date. Hence the district level officers were requested for second round discussion in the state office of NCSC. Sub collector Mr. D.Renjith IAS and Tahsildar Mr K S Satheeshan attended the discussion. The representatives of Arunthathiyar caste were also in present. The district administration pointed out that as they had been migrated to the Kerala State after 1950, they could not be given the status/certificate of SC. On behalf of the affected Arunthathiyar caste, NCSC State office put forth some legitimate justifications for issuing SC community certificates. They are;

1. They cannot be considered as immigrated people to Kerala , because their forefathers lived in the undivided Madras province before independence. After independence, when Madras province was bifurcated into four linguistic states, these Arunthathiyar community might have settled in the part of Kerala. They can't get record for their immigration/settlement.

- II. When other BC(OBC) castes like Nadar, Vellalars, Naidu(Telugu speaking) and Reddiyar (Telugu speaking) who immigrated to Kerala like Arunthathiyar enjoy the privileges, respectively, the later alone cannot be denied respective community certificate.
- III. Arunthathiyar caste lives in Kerala more than 70 years. They might have been brought to Kerala to do scavenging works in those days. The denial of SC Certificates place them permanently to continue the scavenging work. It shall be viewed as practice of untouchability.
- IV. The same Arunthathiyar people who live in other district who said to be migrated before 1960 are issued SC certificate in Kerala. As they are close relatives of the former, these people shall not be denied of SC certificate.
- V. It is also very important to view the matter as per the chapter XI Article 341 of Indian constitution

After discussing above points districts administration assured that they will consult Chief Secretary and the Secretary (SC/ST Directorate), Govt. of Kerala and they would inform the same to NCSC. The Director decided that if the issue is not resolved, it would be transferred to HQ Delhi. The discussion concluded smoothly at 1:15 PM.



Meeting with District Administration, Kottayam

Visit to Post-Metric Hostel for Boys, Vellayambalam, Trivandrum

Director NCSC visited post metric hostel for SC/ST Boys Vellayambalam on 11.06.2024 to ensure educational opportunities and the benefits provided to them. Smt. Meena Rani, District Development Officer for SCs, Trivandrum and Shri. Prijith Lal, Development Officer for SCs, Trivandrum, accompanied him during the visit.

The hostel functions in very good building. Students from all social categories stay in the hostel. Each student is awarded ₹ 3575/PM for food alone. The total strength of hostel is 167 students is given below:

Category	Total	SC	ST	OBC	Gen	OEC	EWS
No. of inmates	167	126	14	12	10	5	0

Students of Arts and Science collages stay in the hostel. The PhD Scholar also stays here. He informed that central fund for SCs is released belatedly every year. So they cannot get scholarship in time and expressed difficulty to pursue their studies.

At present nearly 22 staffs are working to take care of 156 students. Among the 156 students, some students were not in present. The attendance has not been posted properly so many rows were found unmark in the attendance. The ratio between in the students and the staff is 22:156. Some staff of administration shall be reduced according to the strength of the students. Scheduled Caste staff shall be employed more. It is also necessary to verify the genuinity of SC/ST certificates of inmates.

STAFF PATTERN

Category	Total	SC	ST	OBC	Gen	OEC	EWS
No. of permanent employees	20	4	0	9	7	0	0
No. of daily wages employees	2	1	0	1	0	0	0



Visit to post metric hostel for boys.

Visit to Post-Metric Hostel for SC/ST Girls , Poochedivila, Trivandrum

Director visited Post Metric Hostel for SC/ST Girls Poochedivila, Trivandrum on 11.06.2024 to oversee the infrastructure facilities extended to hostel inmates and to meet them directly and listen their grievances. Smt. Meena Rani, District Development Officer for SCs, Trivandrum and Shri. Prijith Lal, Development Officer for SCs, Trivandrum, accompanied him during the visit.

STAFF PATTERN

Category	Total	SC	ST	OBC	Gen	OEC	EWS
No. of Permanent employees	18	4	1	7	3	3	0
No. of daily wages employees	19	10	0	2	4	3	0

INMATES DETAILS

Category	Total	SC	ST	OBC	Gen	OEC	EWS
No. of Students	310	227	37	17	9	20	0

Note:- Food and accommodation provided to students belongs to OBC and General category by spending from General Fund.

Visit to Sree Ayyankali Memorial Govt. Model Residential Sports School for SC/ST, Vellayani, Trivandrum

Director visited **Sree Ayyankali Memorial Govt. Model Residential Sports School, Vellayani** on 11.06.2024 to ensure whether the Govt. facilities are properly provided or not and to know the grievances of students, if any. Smt. Meena Rani, District Development Officer for SCs, Trivandrum and Shri. Prijith Lal, Development Officer for SCs, Trivandrum, accompanied him during the visit.

Sree Ayyankali Memorial Govt. Model Residential Sports School (SAMGMRS School) was established by Govt. of Kerala in 2002-03 it is a co-educational integrated school affiliated to Kerala Board of Higher secondary education. The aim of the school is to provide the opportunity for developing sporting talent among SC/STs. The school conducts classes from 5th to 12th standard. The total intake of school is 240 at present 145 SC and 59 ST students are studying. It was informed that each student receives ₹ 7500/PM as financial assistance to meet the expenditure of food alone. It is known from the discussion that by spending an attractive financial assistance, the school could not produce district level athletes in sports events.

In the school, 4 categories of staff are working. They are playing a vital role in bringing out the sports skill and academic performance. It was informed that they have been deputed from education department. They have been working in this station(school) for several years. Among the 25 teaching staff only 1 temporary teacher belongs to scheduled caste. It shows the existence of discrimination and treatment of disparity among teachers. Scheduled caste people are works as cooks and scavengers. This ambience could not help to empower scheduled caste. The prevailing ambience could be changed by shifting the teachers within a month. Teachers having empathy and aptitude shall be substituted.

STAFF PATTERN

Category	Total	SC	ST	OBC	Gen	OEC	EWS
No. of permanent Teachers	14	0	0	11	3	0	0
No. of Temporary Teachers	2	1	0	0	1	0	0
No. of Permanent Physical Education teachers	2	0	0	2	0	0	0
No. of Temporary Physical Education teachers/Coaches	7	1	0	4	1	1	0
No. of Permanent Non teaching Staff	17	3	0	8	5	1	0
No. of Temporary Non teaching staff	15	12	0	3	0	0	0

Inferences:- None of the permanent physical educational teachers and permanent academic teachers belong to SC

OBSERVATIONS & SUGGESTIONS

- a) Arunthathiyar caste is found in the list of Scheduled caste of Constitution of India. It is requested to view this matter in the light of constitution, chapter XI, Article 341. Arunthathiyar shall be issued SC community certificate with consequential benefits.
- b) It is observed that 14 permanent teachers, 2 temporary teachers, 2 permanent physical education teachers, 7 temporary physical education teachers and 17 non permanent teachers are working in the Sree Ayyankali Memorial Govt. Model Residential Sports School for SC/STs. Among this 42 teachers, only one teacher belong to SC. In the very purpose of the establishment of the school is to empower scheduled caste people. As all the teachers belong to non-SC, it seems that SC teachers are not preferred. Almost all the non-SC teachers are working for past several years it won't create congenial ambience. It is observed these teachers who are working here could not produce district level champions in the individual events. Students are not found healthy. Some female students are found Anemic too. It is necessary to mention they should be provided Moringa green leaves every week. It needs to be pointed out that immediate transfer of teachers is unavoidable. A large number of teachers belong to SC may be placed here.
- c) It is also notable to mention that arrangement has to be made regarding the occupation of Quarters. To ensure the security and safety of young students the teachers need to be in the Quarters.
- d) It should be appreciate Govt. of Kerala provides ₹ 3575/PM for the hostellers of Govt. hostels. Students who stay in the private collage hostels are given higher than 3575. The students who were not allotted hostels have to stay in private residents. They are provided only ₹ 1500/PM. The last category students could not meet the expenditure with ₹1500/PM. This amount need to be hiked.
- e) With this it was concluded to visit the special medical college for SC/ST in the month of July/August, 2024.

Dr. S.Ravivarman
(DIRECTOR)

ബഹു.ദേശീയ പട്ടികജാതി കമ്മീഷൻ ഡയറക്ടറുടെ പത്തനംതിട്ട ജില്ലാസന്ദർശനം തീരുമാനങ്ങൾ

ബഹു.ദേശീയ പട്ടികജാതി കമ്മീഷൻ ഡയറക്ടർ, പട്ടികജാതി വികസന വകുപ്പ് ഡയറക്ടർ എന്നിവർ 22.01.2025)0 തീയതി രാവിലെ പത്തനംതിട്ട വനിതാ പോലീസ് സ്റ്റേഷൻ സബ് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറുടെ സാന്നിധ്യത്തിൽ കോന്നി നിർഭയഎൻടി ഹോമിൽ എത്തി അതിജീവിതയെ സന്ദർശിക്കുകയും തുടർന്ന് പി.ഡബ്ല്യു.ഡി ഗസ്റ്റ് ഹൗസിൽ വച്ച് അതിജീവിതയുടെ മാതാപിതാക്കളോടും സഹോദരനോടും സംസാരിക്കുകയും തുടർന്ന് കളക്ടറേറ്റിൽ വച്ച് മീറ്റിംഗ് കൂടുകയും ചെയ്തു. പ്രസ്തുത മീറ്റിംഗിൽ അതിജീവിതയുടെ സംരക്ഷണം സംബന്ധിച്ചും അതിജീവിതയുടെ വീട്ടിലെ അവസ്ഥ, മാതാപിതാക്കളുടേയും സഹോദരന്റെയും വിവരങ്ങൾ, കുടുംബത്തിന്റെ വരുമാനമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾ, അതിജീവിതയുടെ തുടർന്നുള്ള വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം, ജോലി, ആശ്വാസധനസഹായം എന്നിവ സംബന്ധിച്ച് ബഹു.കമ്മീഷൻ ഡയറക്ടർ ആരാഞ്ഞു. POA Act പ്രകാരം അതിജീവിതയ്ക്ക് അനുവദിച്ചിരുന്ന 8,25,000/- രൂപയിൽ ആശ്വാസധനസഹായമായി 2,00,000/- രൂപ അതിജീവിതയുടെ പേരിലുള്ള അക്കൗണ്ടിലേക്ക് ക്രഡിറ്റ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതാണെന്നും പോക്ടോ ആക്ട് പ്രകാരം അതിജീവിതയ്ക്ക് ആശ്വാസ ധനസഹായം ലഭ്യമാക്കുന്നതിന്റെ നടപടികൾ സംബന്ധിച്ച് കമ്മീഷൻ നിർദ്ദേശം നൽകിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. കേസ് അടിയന്തിരമായി അന്വേഷണം നടത്തി റിപ്പോർട്ട് സമർപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്ന് പോലീസിന് നിർദ്ദേശം നൽകിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതിജീവിതയുടെ മാതാവിന് നിലവിലുള്ള സ്ഥലത്ത് ജോലിക്ക് പോകുന്നതിന് ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുള്ളതിനാൽ ടി പ്രദേശത്ത് നിന്നും മാറി ജോലിക്ക് പോകുന്നതിനുള്ള സൗകര്യം ഒരുക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കുമോ എന്നുള്ള വിവരം അന്വേഷിക്കണമെന്ന് കമ്മീഷനിൽ നിന്നും ആരാഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. ജില്ലാ ഭരണകൂടത്തിന്റെ ഭാഗത്തുനിന്നും നൽകേണ്ട എല്ലാ സഹായങ്ങളും അതിജീവിതയ്ക്ക് നൽകിയിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും തുടർന്നും ആവശ്യമായ പരിഗണന ഈ കേസിന് നൽകുമെന്നും ബഹു.കമ്മീഷൻ ഡയറക്ടറെ അറിയിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്.