

**ASSISTANCE TO REPUTED AND REGISTERED NGO'S/TRUST AND OTHER SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS SOLEMNIZING MASS MARRIAGES FOR SCHEDULED CASTES/INTER-CASTE SCS.(NEW SCHEME)**

**OBJECTIVE**

According to 2001 Census, Scheduled Castes population in Pb., is 70.28 lac which constitutes 28.85% of the total population of the State which is 243.59 lac . This is the highest percentage for a state in our country, which has 16.20% Scheduled Castes population. Majority of the Scheduled Caste people in the State i.e. 75.66% lives in rural area whereas only 24.33% S.C. people resides in the urban areas of the State.

The object of the scheme is to encourage the Institutions, Trust & NGOs etc. to provide financial help to SC & Inter-caste SC couples, working for the removal of untouchability, removing the gap between low and high maintaining communal harmony in the State. To fulfill the objective, the State Govt. has decided to involve the participation of reputed and registered NGOs, Trust and other Social Institutions who will solemnize mass marriage of poor and needy Scheduled Castes/Inter-caste marriages of Scheduled Castes so that the parents of this poor strata of society are relieved to some extent. Such NGOs will be provided financial assistance to solemnize such marriages. The Assistance will be given to eligible NGOs, Trust & Other Social Institutions.

Under this scheme marriages between the following categories will be covered :-

- (i) Between Scheduled Caste (atleast one of member should belong to BPL category)
- (ii) Non Scheduled Caste groom and Scheduled Caste BPL girl.
- (iii) Non Scheduled Caste girl with Scheduled Caste BPL groom.

Financial assistance in the shape of cash will be provided to individuals or institutes which solemnize more than ten mass marriages of SC couples. Rs.0.75 lac per marriage shall be given to institution/Trust/NGO, out of which Rs. 60,000/- will be given for providing utensils, furniture and gold etc. to the couple while Rs. 15,000/- will be given to the organizer, individual/institute as encouragement award.