

Guidelines for Implementation of the Scheme **“Financial Incentive for Inter Caste Marriages”**

Introduction:-

The caste system is a hierarchical system in which castes are placed one above the other on the basis of social status and prestige. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar defined Indian caste system as a system based on graded inequality. It divides men into separate communities and one of its main feature, the practice of endogamy i.e. the social rule that requires an individual to marry within a specific culturally defined social group of which he/she is member, reinforces and sustains this separateness and it is this segregation, which has created difficulty in achieving Constitutional values of liberty, equality, fraternity etc in the society.

The State Government has been implementing the scheme of “Financial Incentive for Inter Caste Marriages” in the state for fulfillment of Article 17 of the Constitution of India in accordance with provisions of the Protection of Civil Rights {PCR} Act, 1955, which is an Act of Parliament and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) {PoA} Act, 1989, another Act of Parliament which also falls within the provisions of Article 17 and 35(a) (ii) of the Constitution.

Inter-caste marriages can be one of the significant steps to reduce the caste prejudices, abolish ‘untouchability’ and spread the values of liberty, equality, fraternity etc in the society.

Aims & Objectives:-

Given the enormity of the social challenge that an inter-caste marriage faces, the Foundation also joins the initiative for bringing in an attitudinal change among the members of society through inter-caste marriages which has the potential to bring sustainable social integration, harmony and fraternity.

The desirability of the scheme is for creating a progressive society for which the inter-caste marriages should be accepted as a norm.

1. The Scheme would be known as “Financial Incentive for Inter Caste Marriages”.
2. The objective of the scheme is to appreciate the socially bold step, of an Inter caste marriage, taken by the newly married couple and to extend financial incentive to the couple to enable them to settle down in the initial phase of their married life. It is clarified that it should not be construed as a supplementary scheme to an employment generation or poverty alleviation scheme.
3. Submission of false/ fabricated information to the competent authority would be punishable as per law in force.
4. The incentive for a legal inter-caste marriage shall be Rs. 50,000/- per marriage. The total amount of incentive will be released to the eligible couple in a single installment through DBT to the Bank Account of the Bride / Bridegroom / Joint Account of the couple
5. The Scheme would provide financial incentive to 100 such marriages in one year.

