

## **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.



**Eligibility Criteria:-**

1. An Inter-caste marriage, for the purpose of this Scheme means a marriage in which one of the spouses belongs to Scheduled Caste and the other belongs to a General Caste (Non-Scheduled Caste). *(i.e. non-SC/ST/OBC)*
2. The marriage should be valid as per the law
3. No incentive is available on second or subsequent marriage.
4. Proposal would be treated as valid if submitted within 3 (three) year of marriage.

**Norms for release of the Financial Incentive:-**

The norms for release of the financial incentive amount under the Scheme are as follows:-

1. The proposal to give incentive under the Scheme should be recommended either by sitting Member of Legislative Assembly, Parliament or Member Mayor of the concerned Municipality Chairman of Scheduled Castes Development Board.
2. How to apply :
  - a) Caste Certificate in prescribed performa of husband / wife issued by the concerned authority.
  - b) Proof of General Caste of husband / wife in for of affidavit from Court.
  - c) An affidavit of their being legally married and in matrimonial alliance would be submitted by the couple. Marriage Certificate issued by the Sub-Registrar of a certificate provided by the local priest who solemnized the marriage in absence of a Marriage Certificate issued by the Sub-Registrar
  - d) Joint photo of the newlywed couple.
  - e) Bank Account No. alongwith IFSC of either Bride or Bridegroom.

**Selection Procedure:-**

A Selection committee headed by the Director of Welfare of SC, Assam as the Chairperson and Dy. Director of Welfare of SC, Assam as the Member Secretary shall select the list of beneficiary newlywed couple seeking financial incentive for Inter Caste Marriages. The committee will also comprise the Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, WPT & BC Deptt., Research Assistants, Progressive Assistances and the Superintendent of the Directorate as members of the committee. The Selection committee will look into fulfillment of all the eligibility criterias by the applicants.

**Benefit:-**

The implementation of the scheme of "Financial Incentive for Inter Caste Marriages" shall significantly reduce caste based prejudices, abolish 'untouchability' by bringing in attitudinal change in the society through communal harmony and spread the values of liberty, equality, fraternity etc. in the society.

