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अधिकारिता मंत्रालय

शास्त्री भवन

नई दिल्ली-110001

SECRETARY

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL

JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT

SHASTRI BHAWAN

NEW DELHI-110001

January 18, 2000.

Dear Ramesh,

There are five Apex Finance and Development Corporation functioning under this Ministry for promoting economic development activities for the benefit of the backward and disadvantaged sections of the society, viz. Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Safai Karamcharis, Minorities and Handicapped persons. A recent review of the performance of these corporations reveals that although there is great potential for investing in the promotion of economic activities in respect of persons belonging to the sections for which these corporations have been set up, which can result in vast improvement in the income levels as well as economic status of the target groups, the outreach so far has been very limited, the numbers assisted are quite small and assistance advanced has not even exhausted a reasonable proportion of the resources available with these corporations for investment.

It appears that the constraints which are coming in the way of these Corporations disbursing the available funds to the State Corporations in full measure relate to the limited number of State Channelising Agencies (SCAs of which there is often only a single one in many States), confinement to individual lending, the neglect of micro credit programmes and the reluctance of the State Governments to furnish guarantees for repayment by the State Corporations to the Apex bodies.

The Conference of Chief Executives of the Apex Corporations and the Managing Directors of the State Channelising Agencies was held at New Delhi on 15th July, 1999 under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Maneka Gandhi, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Social Justice and Empowerment. In the Conference measures to be taken for improving the performance and effectiveness of the Apex Corporations as well as State Channelising