PREFACE

Since the attainment of independence, India has been passing through a silent revolution in all aspects of her national life. Efforts are being made to afford proper direction to the forces of this revolution and thus achieve the goal of a Welfare Democratic State. Everything points to the fact that the march is towards social justice and equality as much as towards economic justice and equality, and in the ultimate analysis, all these must converge towards the same goal, the establishment of a Welfare State.

The problem of the grant of protection and constitutional safeguards to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, which had taken its roots in Indian History ever since 1909, became more prominent with the dawn of independence of India. Side by side with the study of the practical measures for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the Backward classes, there is need for examining the legal basis of Social Welfare work. In this sphere, while in some cases the Fundamental law of the land is in advance of the statute law, in many other cases, there is no denying the fact that the economically and educationally backward classes generally need a longish period of care if they are to be helped to reconstruct their lives and become respectable members of society. Although ameliorative measures are making progress under the care of the Union and State Governments and other non-official organisations, a multi-prolonged drive supplemented with a huge and liberal
financial grant on the part of the Government is the need of the hour. The present work is a description as well as an analysis of the constitutional safeguards granted to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward classes, and other minority communities of India.

This work is divided into eight chapters. The first chapter is introductory which defines such terms as a minority community, the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes. Chapter second deals with the Political safeguards granted to these communities by the Constitution of India. Third and fourth chapters are connected with the study of the safeguards in services and the economic questions relating to their development in the fields of agriculture, forest, cottage industry and cooperatives. In chapter fifth social safeguards including removal of social disabilities, education, housing, medical and public health and means of communications constitute the main problems concerning these communities. Chapters sixth and seventh deal with the work being done by various Governmental and non-official organizations for the welfare of these communities. The last chapter draws certain conclusion about the study made in the previous chapters.

During the period of my research, I had to tap varied sources and the pursuit of that inspired me to visit the Tribal Research Institute, Chhindwara, (M.P.); the Parliament Library, New-Delhi; the Sapru House Library, and some other Libraries maintained by various social organizations in the
Capital. I am grateful to their organizers for their ungrudging and timely help which they afforded to me whenever I happened to visit their institutions.

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