Institutional Arrangements:

(A) AP Backward Classes Cooperative Finance Corporation (APBCFC): A.P

Backward Classes Cooperative Finance Corporation was formed in 1974 based on the recommendation of a backward classes commission appointed in 1969 headed by Anantharaman. The corporation was registered in 1974 under the A.P cooperative societies Act VII of 1964. To encourage self-help, thrift and cooperation among the affiliated societies and their members. The primary duty of the corporation is to undertake the tasks of economic enlistment of the members of the backward classes in the state.

The main objectives of the APBC Finance Corporation are

1) The corporation shall plan, promote, undertake and assist programs of agricultural development, animal husbandry, marketing, processing, supply and storage of agricultural products, small-scale industry, village industry, and cottage industry. Any other economic support and development activity, which will enable its member to earn a better living and help them to improve their standards of living.

2) To undertake a massive program of employment oriented agro-industries, cottage and small scale industries, village industries etc, by providing technical know-how, Managerial assistance, financial assistance and any other form of assistance, which may be required in achieving the above objective including providing the necessary financial guarantees to its members.

3) To provide working capital to the members by advancing loans and cash credits.

4) Coordinate, supervise and control activities affiliated to societies and individual members indebted to the corporation or who obtained supplies and services from corporation.

5) To act as the agent of the government for procurement, supply and distribution of agricultural or other produce or other goods as and when require doing so.

6) To provide facilities for survey, research or study of the problems relating to
cottage and village industries economic welfare to assess potentialities or village cottage and small scale industries and scope of their development with a view to promote such industries and economic support for the purpose of providing employment to its members especially the occupational groups among them.

7) To arrange for publicity and marketing of the finished products manufactured by the members if necessary by opening show rooms, emporiums, exhibitions etc To do all other things as are incidental to or conducive to the attainment of the above objects. On the similar objectives the caste based occupational finance corporations like washer men, weavers etc., are established in the state.

(B) AP Backward Classes Welfare Department (APBCWD):

Jalagam Vengala Rao, when he was Chief Minister, Administration gave cognizance to the genuine interests of B.Cs. Till then the welfare of the Backward Classes was being looked after by the Department of Social Welfare and there used to be one Minister in charge of this portfolio. Vengala Rao during his chief ministership separated the SC/ST Welfare Department and put it under the charge of separate ministry. It was he who recognized the Directorate into two thus creating an independent Directorate for the Backward Classes. The goal of the BC welfare department is to eradicate poverty and eliminate current inequalities that prevent members of the Backward Classes from realizing their full potential, and also to establish a just and egalitarian society. Objectives:

- To increase access to education to persons belonging to BC communities To provide quality education to meritorious BC students pursuing studies at pre-matriculation level
- To promote higher education and impart equality education on par with general students
- To reimburse tuition fees
- To provide coaching facilities to eligible BC students

(C) AP Commission of Backward Classes (APCBC):

In its landmark ruling in Indra SawhneyVs. Union of India delivered on 16-11-1992 (Mandal Case), The Supreme Court inter-nlia directed the Union of India/ States
and Union Territories to set up permanent Backward classes Commissions for the
their respective jurisdictions; either by legislation or by an executive order; as they
decem fit, 1993 (A.P Act No.20 of 1993). The Act of which received the assent of the
President of India on 03-12-1993 on which date the said Act came into force. The Act
provides for the constitution of a permanent Backward Classes Commission for the
State and all other matters connected therewith. The Government constituted the
present A.P Commission for Backward Classes by their order No.G.O.Ms.No. 9

- The Commission for Backward Classes performs the functions and duties
related to the backward castes such as (1) The Commission shall examine
requests for inclusion of any class of citizens as a backward class in the list
and hear complaints of over-inclusion or under-inclusion of any backward
class in such list and tender such advice to the Government as it deems
appropriate.

- The Commission shall examine and make recommendations on any other
matter relating to the backward classes that may be referred to it by the
Government from time to time.

- The Government may at any time, and shall, at the expiration of ten year from
the coming into force of this Act and every succeeding period of ten years

- Welfare of Backward Classes, Department of Backward Classes Government
of Andhra Pradesh, 1996, thereafter, undertake revision of the lists with a view
to excluding from such lists those classes who have ceased to be backward
classes or for including in such lists new backward classes.

- The Government shall while undertaking any revision consult the
Commission.

- The Commission shall have all the powers of a civil Court while performing
its functions.

- In exercise of the powers conferred by section 3 of the Andhra Pradesh
Commission for Backward Classes Act No. 20 of 1993, the Government
constituted the Commission under the Chairmanship of Justice K. S.
Puttaswamy on 26th January 1994. Ten years term of the Commission was
already over, but the progress of the Commission is not yet assessed. The term of the first Chairman of the Commission is also over.

• In order to coordinate the activities of all these institutions there is the secretary, department of BC welfare to the government of Andhra Pradesh under the control of minister for Backward Classes Welfare. Generally the BC portfolio is being given to a minister belongs to the backward castes along with his caste portfolio like if the minister is from fishermen community is also suppose to look after fishermen as well.

(Source: Based on interview with the Commissioner of BC Welfare, Govt of A.P, Hyderabad on 11-02-03).