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Letter from Shri Ram Dhan, Chairperson,
National Commission for
Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes,
to the President of India

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No.1/1/93-RC
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

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15 August 1994

From: Ram Dhan
Chairperson,
National Commission for SC & ST

To : The President of India
New Delhi

Sir,

I have the honour to present herewith the first Report of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes after it attained Constitutional status under Article 338 of the Constitution as amended by the Constitution (Sixtyfifth Amendment) Act, 1990. The National Commission faced a number of handicaps in the initial stages due to inadequacy of staff and some degree of incoherence in its functioning. It was distressing that on the very day the National Commission was reconstituted, i.e., 12-3-92, the Ministry of Welfare abolished 106 posts of the Commission. Moreover, to carry out the enhanced functions entrusted to the Commission effectively, the Commission submitted proposals to the Government for sanction of additional staff but no tangible action has yet been taken. In these circumstances this Report of the National Commission has been somewhat delayed.

The functions of the National Commission cover a large area and involve many aspects of the problems and measures relating to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It is not possible to deal with all of them in the course of one year. The process of investigating the working of the safeguards is a continuous one and at various times the Commission would have to lay down its priorities and study them. In the initial stages the Commission had laid stress on the handling of specific complaints regarding service safeguards and implementation of reservation policy. Another important area concerns inquiries into cases of atrocities on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes by members of other communities. The Commission has initiated inquiries into almost all the cases that came to its notice involving heinous crimes such as murder, rape, burning of houses and property and grievous injuries. The findings and recommendations of the National Commission have been communicated to the concerned Government authorities at appropriate levels for immediate action.

The present Report of the National Commission has stressed these aspects and gives an overview of the economic

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development and the activities in the Education sector.

I trust that besides fulfilling the Constitutional requirement this Report would be found useful by the Central and the State Governments, Members of Parliament and State Legislatures, social activists and scholars.

Yours faithfully,

Ram Dhan
(Ram Dhan)