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## Mahadevappa to Champion SC and ST Staff Welfare in Key Talks

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Karnataka's Social Welfare and District In-Charge Minister, H.C. Mahadevappa, has announced plans to engage with concerned departments to address long-standing demands from Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) employees, particularly within the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) department. Speaking at a state-level convention in Mysuru, Mahadevappa stressed the need for fair promotions, overdue benefits, and stronger institutional support for these historically marginalized communities.

The convention brought together SC and ST employees serving in rural development roles, as well as staff who directly support a population base that comprises nearly 65% of Karnataka's residents. Mahadevappa acknowledged their crucial contributions in executing grassroots governance and welfare programs. He noted that while their efforts are foundational to rural progress, they have often been overlooked when it comes to career advancement and equitable recognition.

To address this, Mahadevappa stated that he would be taking the matter up with relevant ministers to ensure that promotion pipelines and benefit schemes for SC and ST employees are properly implemented. He also pointed to the establishment of internal oversight and vigilance committees within the Social Welfare Department, which aim to monitor grievances and ensure procedural fairness.

The minister drew attention to India's constitutional commitment to equality, invoking the legacy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the principal architect of the Indian Constitution, who fought tirelessly for the rights of oppressed communities. Mahadevappa emphasized that fulfilling these constitutional promises requires more than symbolic gestures; it demands structural action within state departments.

He also acknowledged the impact of the 74th Constitutional Amendment, introduced during the early 1990s, which strengthened local governance through decentralization and mandated significant representation for women in local bodies. Mahadevappa pointed to this reform as an example of how policy, when well-executed, can uplift underrepresented groups and promote inclusive development.

The event also marked the official inauguration of the RDPR Department's Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Employees Association, signaling a more organized and unified approach to advocating for internal departmental reforms. Local leaders, religious representatives, and state officials in attendance echoed Mahadevappa's call for meaningful dialogue and swift administrative action.

This renewed focus on SC and ST employee welfare reflects a broader commitment to fairness and efficient governance, principles that resonate with many citizens who believe that institutions should prioritize merit, duty, and justice over bureaucracy and delay. Mahadevappa's pledge to take these issues forward may offer a long-overdue course correction for employees working on the front lines of rural service delivery.