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## **Yellow card shown to 7 development authorities**

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Lucknow: The state government has issued warning to seven development authorities that had failed to give contracts to members of the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in April — the first month of the current financial year. It has also sought explanations from the vice-chairmen of these authorities.

The concerned development authorities — Aligarh, Bareilly, Muzaffarnagar, Rae Bareli, Saharanpur, Unnao and Kushinagar — have been asked to ensure that such a feat was not repeated or else they may have to face action.

“The authorities have been asked to reply before the next monthly review meeting in June,” said Arun Kumar Sinha, Principal Secretary of Housing and Urban Planning department.

In August 2009, Chief Minister Mayawati had started a scheme where reservation is given to people belonging to the SC/ST category in government contracts worth up to Rs 5 lakh. This year, the government decided to extend the limit up to Rs 25 lakh.

In April, Bareilly had awarded eight tenders but none for the people from SC/ST. In Unnao, only one tender was floated and that was not reserved for SC/ST. In other development authorities — Muzaffarnagar, Rae Bareli, Saharanpur, Kushinagar and Aligarh — no tender was floated in April.

A total of 320 contracts were awarded in different development authorities and UP Housing and Development Board (UPHDB) in April. Around 90 of them were given to people from the SC category. While the UPHDB gave 36 contracts to SCs, 14 contracts were given by the Ghaziabad development authority, eight by Kanpur, six each by Lucknow and Agra and three by Moradabad. No contract was given to STs in any development authority and the UPHDB.

“Officials in these development authorities had said no tender was floated in April. But as this scheme is a priority for the government, the agencies have been asked to implement it properly,” said Sinha. As April was the first month of the current financial year, some authorities did not have the funds to float tenders for new works, he added.