

GUIDELINES ON UTILISATION OF SPECIAL CENTRAL ASSISTANCE TO SCHEDULED CASTES SUB PLAN

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JOINT SECRETARY
TEL NO. 23381643

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE
AND EMPOWERMENT
SHASTRI BHAWAN, NEW DELHI

D.O. 11014/21/97-SCD-II

DATED 6TH OCTOBER 1998.

Subject: Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Special Component Plan (SCP) for Scheduled Castes (SCs) - Modifications in the criteria for release of SCA to States/UTs, utilization etc.

As you are aware, Special Central Assistance is provided to State Governments/UT Administrations as an additive to their Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes. Its main objective is to give a thrust to the development programmes for Scheduled Castes with reference to their occupational pattern and the need for increasing the productivity of and income from their limited resources. It will help in bringing about occupational diversification in the labour surplus economy. SCA is expected to give thrust to family oriented schemes of economic development of SCs below the poverty line, by providing resources for filling the critical gaps and for providing missing vital inputs so that the schemes can be more meaningful. Since the schemes/programmes for SCs may be depending upon the local occupational pattern and the economic activities available, the States/UTs have been given full flexibility in utilizing SCA with the only condition that it should be utilized in conjunction with SCP and other resources available from other sources like various Corporations, financial institution etc.

2. An illustrative list of areas under various sectors of development where SCA could be utilized has already been circulated vide this Ministry's d.o. letter No.19020/35/93-SCD-VI dated 29th July, 1993 (copy vide Annexure I). The condition of blocks having 50% or more of SC population for use of SCA for infrastructural development programmes has been relaxed and villages having 50% or more of SC population can now be considered for infrastructural development programmes with the support of SCA funds. Only 10% of the total SCA released to the State Government/UT Administration in a year should be utilized for infrastructural development programmes. Copy of the d.o. letter No.19020/35/93-SCD-VI dated 7th September, 1998 issued in this connection is enclosed as (copy vide Annexure II)

3. The continuation of the Scheme of Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan for SCs during the IX Five Year Plan has been approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs with the following modifications and conditions: -

(i) The SCA will be released to the state Governments/UT Administrations on the basis of following criteria:-

(a)	On the basis of SC population of the States/UTs.	40%
(b)	On the basis of relative backwardness of the States/UTs (inverse of State Per Capita Domestic Product)	10%
(c)	On the basis of the percentage of SC families in the States/UTs covered by composite economic development Programmes in the Plans to enable them to cross the Poverty line.	25%
(d)	On the basis of the Special Component Plan to the Annual Plan as compared to the SC population percentage in the States/UTs	25%

(ii) 2% of the total budget allocation for the scheme will be earmarked for North Eastern States, which implement SCP for SCs.

(iii) 15% of the total SCA released to the States/UTs, On the basis of the Criteria a (i) above will be utilized by State Governments/UTs Administrations exclusively on viable income generating economic development schemes/Programmes for SC Women.

(iv) 5% of the total SCA released to the States / UTs will be utilized by them exclusively for the economic development of disabled persons among SCs

(v) 3% of the total SCA released to the States /UTs shall be utilized by the States/UTs for supervision, monitoring and evaluation of economic development schemes implemented with the support of SCA funds.

(vi) Second installment of SCA should be released to the States/UTs after ensuring expenditure of cumulative opening balances of the previous year and 75% of the first installment for the current year.

4. The limit of SCA permitted for staff meant for supervision implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Schemes at various levels has been increased from r% to 3% taking into account the requirement of staff and infrastructure for the purpose at all levels of implementation. Proper and timely utilization of SCA funds on viable schemes for the economic development of SC families below the poverty line needs greater attention. The State Governments/UT Administrations should strengthen their monitoring mechanism at State and district levels. There should be regular feed back through monthly progress report on implementation and utilization of funds from the implementing agencies to the District Level Monitoring Committee and from District Level Committee to the State Level Monitoring Committee on quarterly basis. The Secretary of the Department concerned with the SC welfare and development should send the quarterly progress report on utilization of SCA within 15 days after the end of each quarter and he annual progress report on the utilization of funds within 3 month of the end of each financial year to the Government of India, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Based on the progress reports received from the State Governments/UT Administrations, the Ministry will send consolidated State-wise report on the subject especially on utilization of funds under SCA to SCP indicating diversion of funds, if any to the Planning Commission.

5. Late release of funds to the Implementing departments/agencies, non-utilization of funds sanctioned/released to the implementing departments/agencies for the purpose for which it is sanctioned, accumulation of unspent balances of funds for considerable long period with the implementing departments/agencies, keeping funds in Civil Deposits, Fixed deposits, saving bank accounts, P.L.A. etc. for considerable long period, lack of proper action plan for implementation of schemes, sanction of funds for schemes without ascertaining their feasibility and viability, leakage of benefit of schemes meant for SCs to Non-SCs, etc. decelerate the process of economic development of the target group. An effective device needs to be evolved to remove such shortcomings/loopholes so that the purpose of SCA could be served meaningfully. Amongst various measures for effective implementation of development schemes for SCs, the following points may be given more stress: -

- i. Release of funds to the implementing agencies without loss of time after getting the SCA from the Government of India.
- ii. Separate Account of SCA released to the implementing agencies may be maintained and utilization of SCA funds by the implementing agencies may be watched regularly through periodical progress reports from the implementing agencies.
- iii. It may be ensured that Utilization Certificates from the concerned implementing agencies are obtained in time.
- iv. Annual Audit of SCA accounts of State and District/Block Level Implementing Agencies may be ensured.
- v. Keeping SCA funds in civil deposits, fixed deposits, saving bank account, PLA etc. for long periods by implementing agencies or nodal department may be discouraged. Delay in identifying schemes & beneficiaries and sanction of schemes and release of assistance to the beneficiaries often lead to deposit the funds in various accounts. Release of funds to the implementing agencies without ascertaining the utilization of funds released to them earlier leads to accumulation of unspent balances and increase in the deposit in various accounts.

Identification of viable schemes as per the developmental needs of SCs and identification of eligible beneficiaries to be considered for assistance in a financial year should be completed well before the commencement of the financial year. Sanction of schemes and release of assistance can thus be ensured in time soon after the receipt of SCA funds. This will help in avoiding last minute sanction of schemes at the fag end of the financial year and in ensuring the full utilization of funds.

6. The Government of India, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment will intimate the tentative allocation of SCA to State Governments/UT Administration at the beginning of the financial year and will release the first installment of SCA on the basis of SC Population and relative backwardness of States/UTs during the first quarter of the financial year. The State Governments/UT Administrations should furnish the information on effort-based criteria {the criteria at (c) and (d) mentioned in Para 3 (i)} and the utilization of SCA released to them during the previous year and first installment released during the current year, in the month of August every year. This will ensure the release of second installment in the beginning of the second half of the financial year.

7. Utilization of 15% and 5% of total SCA released to the State Governments/UT Administrations exclusively for the economic development schemes/programmes for SC women and disabled persons among SCs respectively may be ensured from this year (1998-99) onwards. The progress on utilization of SCA for SC Women and disabled among SCs indicating the schemes implemented, funds utilized and the number of beneficiaries covered, may be furnished to this Ministry within a month after the end of this financial year. From next year onwards the progress report in this regard may be furnished to this Ministry within one month after the end of

each six months period.

8. The skill developing training programmes to be implemented with the support of SCA funds should be formulated in such a way that after the completion of training, the placement of trained candidates either in waged employment or in self-employment is ensured.

9. Follow up of the beneficiaries after the schemes are sanctioned to them is necessary to ascertain whether they have acquired necessary assets and utilizing the assets for income generating activities. Proper maintenance of records regarding the accounts of funds received, given to the beneficiaries including subsidy and bank loan, full address of the beneficiaries, assets created under various schemes sanctioned to the beneficiaries, etc. by the implementation departments/agencies should be ensured.

10. I shall be grateful, if the various measures for ensuring full utilization of SCA funds and effective implementation of schemes for the benefit of the target group are given adequate attention and made into practice.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(A.K. Choudhary)

To

1. The Chief Secretary of 24 States/UTs as per list attached.
2. The Secretary concerned with SC Welfare & development of he 24 States/UTs as per list enclosed.

Copy to:

1. Adviser (SW&BC), Planning Commission, Yojana Bhavan, New Delhi.
2. Secretary, National Commission for SC/ST, Loknayak Bhavan, New Delhi.
3. Director, Audit, Officer of the C & AG, Indraprastha Estate, ITO, New Delhi
4. Director (Finance), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.

(A.K Choudhary)
Joint Secretary

JOINT SECRETARY
TELE NO; 381652

ANNEXURE-I
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WELFARE
SHASTRI BHAWAN
NEW DELHI-110001

D.O. NO.19020/35/93-SCD-VI

DATED: 29.7.93

Dear Shri

The scheme of Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Special Component Plan (SCP) for the Scheduled Castes is linked with the Government of India's strategy for the development of Scheduled Castes. The main objective of the scheme is to give a thrust to the economic development programmes for the Scheduled Castes with reference to their occupational pattern and secondly, to increase the productivity of and income from their limited resources. A series of instructions have been issued regarding the purposes for which Special Central Assistance could be utilized for the development of the Scheduled Castes.

2. On examination of information received from the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, it has been found that a large chunk of the Special Central Assistance has been spent without effective linkage with the viability of the scheme. Some States had also kept the funds unspent for long intervals.

3. Despite considerable efforts made to extend the benefits of educational and other developmental programmes to ensure the upper mobility of Scheduled Castes, it is found that there is much to be desired. The major problem being faced in the area of Scheduled Castes development continued to be economic, educational and social. The need for special attention for groups like landless agricultural labourers marginal farmers, artisans, civic sanitation workers, flayers, tanners and leather workers and other unorganized labour continues to be crucial.

4. Considering all these, in amplification of earlier guidelines, it has been decided that the scope of the existing Special Central Assistance should include infrastructure development programmes in blocks having 50% or more of Scheduled Castes population subject to the condition that the SCA allocation should be made use of in such a way as to encourage larger efforts on development of Scheduled Castes on the part of States/Union Territories.

5. Accordingly, an illustrative list of items under various developmental sectors is enclosed herewith for which Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan could be utilized on specific viable schemes covering Scheduled Castes population individually and/or in clusters, immediate steps for utilization of the SCA to SCP may be taken according to these revised guidelines.

6. I shall be grateful if you issue necessary directions to all concerned in this regard under intimation to the Ministry of Welfare and Planning Commission.

With regards,

Yours Sincerely,

Sd/-
(GANGA DAS)

Chief Secretaries of all
States/Union Territories.

No.19020/35/93-SCD-VI

Dated the 29th July 1993

Copy forwarded for necessary action to:-

1. Secretary, Planning Commission, New Delhi
2. Advisor (BC), Planning Commission, New Delhi. Secretary to the Government of India, All Ministries/Deptt,

Sd/-

(GANGA DAS)
JOINT SECRETARY

FAMILY ORIENTED CUM INCOME GENERATING SCHEMES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SCHEDULED CASTES FAMILIES: -

1. AGRICULTURE

- (a) Training-Cum-demonstration to Scheduled Castes farmers.
- (b) Distribution of seeds/fertilizers, minkits and pesticides to Scheduled Castes farmers in addition to the usual programmes of Agriculture department.
- (c) Commercial crops programme in Scheduled Caste cultivators' land .
- (d) High yielding variety programme in Scheduled Caste cultivators' land in addition to the usual programmes of Agriculture department.
- (e) Assistance to persons/landless agricultural labourers belonging to Scheduled Castes for reclamation/development of their lands.

2. HORTICULTURE

- (a) Taking up fruit and vegetable plantation in Scheduled Castes beneficiary land
- (b) Training to Scheduled Castes in growing, marketing of fruits and vegetables produce
- (c) Small nurseries seed farms incidental to the above.

3. LAND REFORMS

- (a) Assistance to Scheduled Caste families who have been distributed surplus land for developing and cultivating the land.
- (b) Preparation of land records of block having 50% or more Scheduled Caste population.

4. MINOR IRRIGATION

- a. Check-dams, diversion channels, water harvesting structures, dug-wells, tube-wells, cooperative lift points for Scheduled Caste groups/community in areas having 50% or more Scheduled Caste beneficiaries.
- b. Subsidy/assistance to individual beneficiaries for dug-wells, tube wells, irrigation pump sets, farm ponds.

5. SOIL CONSERVATION

- a. Plantation of food and species as part of soil conservation measures.

6. ANIMALHUSBANDRY

- (a) Supply of milk cattle, poultry, goat, sheep, pigs and duck units to Scheduled Caste families.
- (b) Assistance to dairy and poultry cooperative societies in the areas with substantial Scheduled Caste population.

7. FORESTRY

- a. Development of Social and agro-forestry benefiting Scheduled Caste Families.

8. FISHERIES

- a. Assistance to Scheduled Caste Families for pisciculture.
- b. Training of Scheduled Castes in fish production collection etc.
- c. Development of Scheduled Caste fishermen cooperative
- d. Subsidy/assistance to Scheduled Caste fishermen to purchase fishing boats, nets etc.

9. VILLAGE & SMALL INDUSTRIES

- (a) Skill development training to traditional Scheduled Caste artisans in modern methods of production.
- (b) Assistance to Scheduled Caste artisans/craftsmen for setting up of business and small and cottage industries.
- (c) Entrepreneurship development training to Scheduled Castes.
- (d) Bee Keeping
- (e) Sericulture
- (f) Introduction of new craft programmes among Scheduled Caste families.

10. COOPERATIVES

- a. Formation of new cooperatives and strengthening existing Cooperatives with substantial Scheduled Caste members for promoting ventures in traditional occupations like leather works, weaving and brick-making etc.
- b. Strengthening of consumer cooperatives, labour cooperatives and other cooperatives having a substantial number of Scheduled Castes members.
- c. Working capital assistance to Scheduled Caste cooperatives engaged in production of consumable items etc.
- d. Training to Scheduled Caste members of cooperatives in management and administration cooperatives.
- e. Processing/marketing cooperatives.

11. EDUCATION

- a. Establishment and running of residential schools in areas having low level literacy.
- b. Repairs and proper upkeep of existing schools/hostels meant for Schedule Castes.

12. SCHEDULED CASTE WOMEN.

- a. Assistance to Scheduled Caste Women and their cooperatives for their production and marketing of consumer goods.
- b. Training of Scheduled Caste women in schemes designed to improve family earning.

13. ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Programmes of improvement of ecology and environment having a bearing on family-oriented economic programmes.

14. MINIMUM NEEDS PROGRAMME

- a. Establishment of dispensaries/hospital/ centers for Homeopathic, Naturopathic and Yogic cures in areas having 50% or more Scheduled Caste population.
- b. Establishment of mobile medical dispensaries so that all areas of SC concentration can be targeted for the provision of health services.
- c. Provision of electric supply and light to the Scheduled Caste habitats.
- d. Provision of drinking water to Scheduled Caste habitats where there are no drinking water facilities.
- e. Development of village link roads and small C.D. Works in areas/blocks having 50% or more Scheduled Caste population.

GANGA DAS
JOINT SECRETARY
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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WELFARE
SHASTRI BHAWAN
NEW DELHI-110001

D.O. NO.19020/35/95-SCD-VI

DATED: 27.10.93

Dear Shri

Please refer to my D.O. letter of even number dated 29th July, 1993, regarding Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Special Component Plan (SCP) and amplified guidelines thereon with an illustrative list of items under various developmental sectors where SCA could be utilized in blocks having 50 per cent or more of Scheduled Caste population.

2. In this connection, it is clarified that the " amplified guidelines do not alter the principle of SCA being an additive to SCP and its utilization in conjunction with SCP for filling the critical gaps and for providing missing inputs on viable schemes for the economic development of Schedules Caste families. **SCA should not be used to substitute the obligations for State Governments under their Plan and non-plan allocations for Scheduled Castes. Use of SCA with the SCP for establishing and running residential schools should strictly be in areas having low literacy, particularly in those areas where literacy level amongst SC female is below two percent.** Similarly utilization of SCA with SCP for the items mentioned under Minimum Needs Programmes should be in those areas where such facilities are not available for Scheduled Castes."

With regards,

Yours sincerely,
Sd/-
(GANGA DAS)

To
Secretary, Social Welfare Of all states/UTs as per the list.

A.K. CHOUDHARY
TEL 3381643;
D.O. No.19020/35/93-SCD-VI/II

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE
AND EMPOWERMENT
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHASTRI BHAVAN, NEW DELHI
DATED 7 Th SEPTEMBER 1998.

Dear

Kindly refer to this Ministry's d.o. letter of even number dated 29.7.1993 regarding amplification of guidelines on Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes, extending the scope of its utilization also for infrastructure development programmes in the blocks having 50 per cent or more of SC population .

2. On the basis of requests from various State Governments for exemption of blocks having 50 percent or more of SC population for utilization of SCA for infrastructural development programmes, the matter was re-examined and it is found that the benefit of infrastructure development out of SCA funds is possible only for SCs in a few blocks in the country spread over in four States. Since most of the villages in the country with high concentration of SC population are lacking basic infrastructure for providing drinking water facilities, health care facilities, link roads, educational facilities, etc. to SC population, it has been decided to relax the condition of blocks having 50 per cent or more of SC population for use of SCA for infrastructural development programmes. SCA may now be utilized for infrastructural development programmes in villages with 50% or more of SC population, where infrastructural facilities for overall development of SCs are lacking.

3. Since the main objective of SCA is the economic development of SC population in order to bring them above the poverty line, only 10% of the total SCA released to the State/UT in a year should be utilized for infrastructural development programmes in the villages having 50 per cent or more of SC population.

4. As you are aware, SCA is an additive to the SCP of State/UT and its utilisation should primarily be on income generating schemes/programmes of economic development of SCs in conjunction with SCP as well as resources available from other sources like various corporations, financial institutions etc. The basic principle of utilization of SCA in conjunction with SCP for filling the critical gaps and for providing missing inputs on viable schemes may strictly be followed while utilizing SCA for economic development schemes as well as infrastructure development programmes. SCA should not be used to substitute the obligations of State Government/UT Administrations under their plan and non-plan allocations for SCs.

5. The details of villages where SCA funds are utilized for the purpose of infrastructural development and the physical achievement thereon may also be included in the quarterly and annual progress reports on utilization of SCA to be furnished to this Ministry by the State Government/UT Administrations.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,
Sd/-
(A.K. CHOUDHARY)

To

1. Chief Secretaries of 24 States (as per list attached)
2. Secretaries in charge of SC Welfare (as per list attached)

Copy for information to:

1. Advisor (SW&BC), Planning Commission, Yojana Bhavan, New Delhi
2. Secretary, National Commission for SCs & STs, Lok Nayak Bhavan, New Delhi
3. Accountant General in 24 States /UTs
4. Director, Office of the C & AG, New Delhi

Sd/-
(A.K.CHOUDHARY)
Joint Secretary

Frequently Asked Questions for the Scheme of SCA to SCSP

Q. What is SCSP?

R. Strategy of the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan for the Scheduled Castes (SCs) was introduced in the Sixth Plan for channelizing the funds to the SC categories of people to avail their due share of plan benefits and outlays. The strategy of Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) envisage channelising the flow of outlays and benefits from all the sectors of development in the Annual Plans of States/UTs and Central Ministries at least in proportion to their population both in physical and financial terms.

Q. What is the SCA to SCSP?

R. Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) is a central scheme under which 100% grant is given to the States/UTs as an additive to their Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP).

Q. Who are the target groups of the Scheme?

R. The Scheduled Castes persons living below the Poverty line.

Q. What type of activities can be taken up under the Scheme?

R. The main objective of the Scheme is to give a thrust to family oriented schemes of economic development of SCs below the poverty line, by providing resources for filling the critical gaps. Since the schemes / programmes for SCs may be depending upon the local occupational pattern and the economic activities available, the States/UTs have been given full flexibility in utilizing SCA with the only condition that it should be utilized in conjunction with SCP and other resources available from other sources like various Corporations, financial institution etc.

Q. Whether infrastructure development works can be taken up under the Scheme?

R. Yes, 10% of the total SCA released to the State Government/UT Administration in a year can be utilized for infrastructural development programmes in villages having more than 50% SC population.

Q. How SCA is released to the states/UTs?

R. The SCA will be released to the state Governments/UT Administrations on the basis of following criteria:-

(a)	On the basis of SC population of the States/UTs.	40%
(b)	On the basis of relative backwardness of the States/UTs (inverse of State Per Capita Domestic Product)	10%
(c)	On the basis of the percentage of SC families in the States/UTs covered by composite economic development Programmes in the Plans to enable them to cross the Poverty line.	25%
(d)	On the basis of the Special Component Plan to the Annual Plan as compared to the SC population percentage in the States/UTs	25%

Q. Since when the Scheme is under operation?

R. The Government of India in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing a "**Central Sector Scheme of Special Central Assistance(SCA) to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan(SCSP)**" since 1980 for the development of Scheduled Castes who form the major chunk of the country's population living below the poverty line.

Q. How the Scheme can benefit the women entrepreneurs?

R. 15% of the total SCA released to the States/UTs can be utilized by them exclusively on viable income generating economic development schemes/Programmes for SC Women.

Q. Whether disabled persons also have special benefits under the Scheme?

R. Yes, 5% of the total SCA released to the States / UTs can be utilized by them exclusively for the economic development of disabled persons among SCs.

Q. Whether office expenses can also be done under the Scheme?

R. Yes, 3% of the total SCA released to the States /UTs can be utilized by them for supervision, monitoring and evaluation of economic development schemes implemented with the support of SCA funds.

Q. How skill development Schemes can be taken up under the Scheme?

R. The State Governments/UT Administrations can utilise at least 10% of the funds of SCA to SCSP for skill development programmes within existing framework of the Scheme. After completion of the training programmes for skill development of SC beneficiaries, placement of, at least, 70% of the trained candidates either in waged employment or in self employment are to be ensured. In order to give necessary impetus for economic development of women, out of the total SC beneficiaries covered under Skill Development programmes, participation of at least 30% women candidates is also to be ensured.

Q. What are the effective measures taken by the Ministry for effective implementation of the Scheme?

R. Amongst various measures for effective implementation of development schemes for SCs, the following points are given more stress: -

- i. Release of funds to the implementing agencies without loss of time after getting the SCA from the Government of India.
- ii. Separate Account of SCA released to the implementing agencies to be maintained.
- iii. Utilization of SCA funds by the implementing agencies are being watched regularly through periodical progress reports.
- iv. Utilization Certificates from the concerned implementing agencies.
- v. Annual Audit of SCA accounts of State and District/Block Level Implementing Agencies.
