

Guidelines for formulation, implementation and monitoring of Special Component Plan for the Scheduled Castes and Tribal Sub-Plan for Scheduled Tribes

Detailed guidelines relating to the Special Component Plan (SCP) for the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) for the Scheduled Tribes (STs) have been issued by the concerned departments of the Central Government from time to time.

The basic objective of both these Sub-Plans is to channelise the flow of outlays and benefits from the general sectors in the Central Ministries/Departments for the development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes at least in proportion to their population, both in physical and financial terms. The Mid Term Appraisal of the Tenth Plan has noted that several Central Ministries/Departments have not earmarked adequate funds to SCP and TSP, proportionate to the share of SCs and STs in the population.

The importance of the SCP and TSP has been again underlined by the Hon'ble Prime Minister while addressing the 51st Meeting of the National Development Council held on 27th June, 2005. The Prime Minister had then stated that "in the mid-1970s, the Special Component Plan and the Tribal Sub-Plan were initiated. Tribal Sub-Plans and Special Component Plans should be an integral part of Annual Plans as well as Five Year Plans, making provisions therein non-divertible and non-lapsable, with the clear objective of bridging the gap in socio-economic development of the SCs and STs within a period of 10 years".

In this context, the following guidelines with respect to SCP and TSP are once again reiterated so that the same may be followed strictly in the preparation of the Annual Plans for 2006-07.

Objectives: The following should be the broad objectives of the SCP and TSP

- Substantial reduction in poverty and un-employment.
- Creation of productive assets in favour of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to sustain the growth likely to accrue through development efforts.
- Human resource development of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes by providing adequate educational and health services, and
- Provision of physical and financial security against all types of exploitation and oppression.

Action Plan: To fulfil the above objectives the following points may be taken into account for formulating SCP and TSP

1. Earmarking of funds for SCP/TSP from the Central Ministry/Department Plan outlay at least in the proportion of SC/ST population to the total population of the country.
2. Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan funds should be non-divertible and non-lapsable.
3. A dedicated unit may be constituted in every Central Ministry/Department for the welfare and development of SCs/STs as nodal unit for formulation and implementation of SCP/TSP.
4. Placing the funds earmarked for SCP/TSP at the disposal of this nodal dedicated unit concerned which in turn will reallocate the funds to the sectoral departments for implementing schemes directly relevant to SC/ST development.
5. Placing the funds earmarked for SCP/TSP under separate budget head/sub-head for each central Ministry/department for implementing SCP and TSP. In this connection it may be noted that the List of Major and Minor Heads of Account of Union and States as issued by the Controller General of Accounts provides that Tribal Sub Plan (code 796) and Special Component Plan (789) may be opened as Minor Head below the functional Major Head/Sub Major Head wherever necessary.

Components of SCP and TSP

1. Only those schemes should be included under SCP/TSP that ensure direct benefits to individuals or families belonging to Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes.
2. Outlay for area oriented schemes directly benefiting Scheduled Castes hamlets/villages having a majority of Scheduled Castes population/tribal hamlets and villages shall be included in SCP and TSP.
3. Priority should be given for providing basic minimum services like primary education, health, drinking water, nutrition, rural housing, rural electrification and rural link road.
4. Wage component, especially under rural employment schemes, should not be included under SCP/TSP.

5. Schemes to develop agriculture and allied activities like animal husbandry, dairy development, vocational training, etc. that provide a source of livelihood to the SC and ST population should be included.
6. Innovative projects that draw upon institutional finance to supplement plan allocations may be drawn up.

Creation of general awareness of SCP/TSP schemes

State Governments should take initiative to generate awareness among the general public about the schemes to be implemented/being implemented for the development of SCs and STs by the different departments of the State Governments through electronic and print media.

Monitoring of SCP and TSP

1. State and District/Block level Monitoring Committees should be constituted to monitor the implementation of various schemes under SCP and TSP of various development departments. The District/Block level committees may review the progress of implementation of schemes and utilization of funds on monthly basis and the State level committees may review the progress on quarterly basis.
2. District and Block level committees may be constituted on the pattern of District and Block level committee constituted by the Ministry of Rural Development by involving elected members (MPs, MLAs and Panchayat members, and other prominent leaders in the districts) or the same committees may be entrusted with the responsibilities for monitoring of these programmes.
3. The nodal department should ensure timely release of funds to the concerned development departments who in turn should ensure immediate release of funds soon after the receipts of funds from nodal department to their field level implementing agencies. Any lapse on the part of field level implementing agencies in timely utilization of funds and proper implementation of the schemes may be viewed seriously.
4. Non-earmarking of funds under SCP and TSP may result in non-approval of Plans of the States/UTs.
5. Ministries of Social Justice & Empowerment and Tribal Affairs will be actively involved in the process of finalization of Annual Plans of the States/UTs.

6. Evaluation to assess the impact of economic development schemes implemented under SCP, on the socio-economic conditions of SCs may be get conducted by the nodal department on regular basis. Dissemination of information to SCs all over the State/UT about the schemes/programmes available for their development may be the responsibility of the nodal department. The nodal department may also ensure the follow up of the schemes implemented and maintenance of proper records on assets created under SCP in District/Block etc.

Additional Guidelines for preparing Schemes/Programmes under Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub Plan by the State Governments

The State Government should prepare Special Component Plan (SCP) and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) as per the proportion of SC and ST population of the State. The guidelines issued recently by the Planning Commission to the State Governments for the SCP and TSP formulation, implementation and monitoring need to be strictly adhered and followed (D.O No. M- 13011/3/2005-SP-Co dated 31.10.2005)

The State Government should also prepare a detailed report on all the development indicators for the general population, SCs and STs especially focusing on agriculture, education (primary, middle, technical and higher), health, industry and service sectors. The gap of development indicators between the general population, SCs and STs has to be bridged within a period of 10 years.

State level Monitoring Committee for SCP/TSP under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister, Social Welfare/Tribal Welfare should be constituted with Principal Secretary/Secretary, Social Welfare/Tribal Welfare as the Member Secretary. A District level Monitoring Committee for SCP/TSP should also be constituted under the Chairmanship of District Collector with all the district level officers as its members. Block level Committee may also be constituted under the Chairmanship of President, Block Samiti where BDO and others will be its members. Monitoring of SCP/TSP schemes/programmes should be undertaken by these Committees every month and quarterly performance review. Quarterly Performance Review report should be communicated to the SCP & TSP Unit, Planning Commission. A proforma for submitting financial and physical progress of the SCP/TSP schemes/programmes is enclosed for sending the relevant information to Planning Commission.

It is emphasized that, there is a need to implement schemes relating to the welfare of SCs and STs under these two components. The details of some of the schemes suggested for implementation by the State Government are as under:

1. The villages with 50% and above SC/ST population may be saturated first and provided with all the development activities under Bharat Nirman, schools, education, skill development, trainings for self-employment, etc.
2. A group of 5-10 SC/ST farmers may be constituted for skill development by the State Agriculture Department / Extension Agencies. This group may be provided a package of small tractors with accessories, tube wells in the electrified villages and pump sets in non-electrified villages may be provided with other agricultural inputs like quality seeds, pesticides, fertilizers, etc. This farmers group may also be given training for cultivation of suitable crops and for undertaking activities in the sectors of fisheries, animal husbandry, horticulture, etc.

3. An educational complex in the name of educational institute may be set up in each district. The facilities relating to sports, multi-purpose hall, intermediate college with sports education may be provided in this institute on the pattern of Navodaya Vidyalaya and Kendriya Vidyalaya. This educational institute will also have classes from 1 to 12 with hostel facilities for 70% SC/ST boys and girls and 30% boys and girls from general population. 70% expenditure of this institute will be provided from the SCP earmarked funds and 30% will come from the General Plan.
4. In every Divisional Headquarters, a polytechnic may be set up. Further, one or two training colleges for nursing and para-medical training courses, for nurses, ANMs, physiotherapists, technicians, radiologists may be provided exclusively for SCs & STs. The nursing colleges exclusively for SC/ST girls may be attached to medical colleges provided. 70% expenditure of this institute will be provided from the SCP earmarked funds and 30% will come from the General Plan. The expenditure for running these courses will be made out of Special Component Plan outlay earmarked in the State.
5. In each district, coaching-cum-guidance centres may be opened in Universities/ Colleges appearing for various competitions. The expenditure of these coaching-cum-guidance centres may be borne out of SCP/TSP funds.
6. Good quality ITIs may be established in each District for imparting employable skill exclusively for the unemployed SC/ST youth for providing employment opportunities within and outside the State. To tackle the problem of unemployment, training courses (not routine training courses) should be started in a big way in the State. These capsule training courses may consist of 4-5 months theoretical training on personnel management, material management, financial management, marketing management and 6-7 months practical training. Such trained personnel should be provided loans at cheaper interest rates from the Banks/ SC/ST Development Corporation to start production ventures in clusters, in those areas where infrastructural facilities already exist. There should be a commercial complex in the main market of District Head Quarter and shops/ outlets to be allotted to these trained SC/ST entrepreneurs to sell their produce/ manufactured goods.
7. The candidates preparing for various competitive exams like admission in engineering colleges and medical colleges and other services may be allowed to take admission in any reputed private training centre and their full fees should be reimbursed by the Government from SCP/ TSP funds.
8. Government may also think of providing one time financial support of say Rs. 25 to Rs. 40 lakhs to the recognized social institutions for starting intermediate /

degree colleges in each Block exclusively for SC/ST boys and girls or admitting 70% SC/ST boys and girls and 30% boys and girls from general population as is being done in U.P.

9. It was suggested that residential schools for SC/ST boys and girls should be set up in all the districts where percentage of the SC and ST concentration is high. The residential schools should have the facilities of vocational training, coaching-cum-guidance centre, sports centre and cultural centre. **Under vocational training**, training related to trades like electrician, electronics, fitter, draftsman, mechanic, plumber, fashion design, computer, data entry operator etc. **need to be given by starting IITs in SC/ST dominated areas.** Technical education should be given due importance so as to provide self-employment to SCs and STs.
10. The tuition fee of the SC and ST students studying in private colleges and institutions should be fully reimbursed by the Social Welfare/Tribal Welfare department under SCP and TSP funds.
11. The State Government should provide scholarships to SC and ST students for all income groups studying in classes I to X as in U.P.. The rate of stipend may be worked out realistically by the State.
12. Road and connectivity is another important sector which affect the transport and communication of the villagers. All the villages having more than 50-60% of SCs and STs concentration need to be saturated first with road connectivity. The programmes under Bharat Nirman may be targeted especially to SC/ST village development.
13. In those villages where no land is available especially in SC and ST dominated areas, land should be purchased and allotted to homeless for construction of houses under Indira Awas Yojana.
14. The forest villages in the State need to be converted into revenue villages where basic minimum services have to be provided like education, housing, drinking water, health facilities, road connectivity, etc.
15. Conversion of dry toilets to wet toilets may also be taken out of these funds in a big way so that scavenging colonies should be developed with rehabilitation programme.
16. There is always food scarcity in SC and ST dominated areas and the State Government is suggested to select Self-Help Groups of 5-10 SCs and STs and they may be allotted ration shops for distribution of essential commodities. Subsidy / loan could also be provided to them on recoverable terms up to Rs.5 lakhs.

17. Training may also be imparted in the existing Police Training Centres or Home Guards training centres to SC and ST youth (18-21 years) who have passed Matriculation for Constables and Home Guards. While the Home Guards will look after the security of the villages as Village Defence Committee, the later may be recruited as Constables in the State Government. Similarly training may also be given to atleast 5000 SCs/STs for Conductor and Driver jobs through State Transport Corporation.
18. The State Government was suggested to provide Rs.25000/- towards Kanya Dhan for SC/ST girls who passed out Intermediate Examination.
19. In urban slum areas a multi-purpose community hall need to be provided to cater to the needs of the SC families.
