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D.O. No. M-13011/3/2005-SP-Co

October 31, 2005

Dear Planning Secretary,

With reference to para 8 of the Deputy Chairman's letter dated 6th September, 2005 addressed to your Chief Minister, I am directed to enclose herewith a note consolidating the guidelines already issued by the Government of India for the formulation, implementation and monitoring of Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes and Tribal Sub-Plan for Scheduled Tribes.

I would request you to kindly ensure that the Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan are drawn up accordingly in Annual Plan 2006-07.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-
(R. Sridharan)

Planning Secretaries of All States/UTs
(except Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland)

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.
